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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a proposal to suspend the 50-cent minimum wage increase that will take effect this September?

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INSIDE

NATION

Mother of Boston bombing suspects says she found deeper spirituality. ➤ PAGE 15

FOCUS

U.S. hospitals are found to have sent hundreds of immigrants back home. ➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

A peek into the daily scribbles of F. Scott Fitzgerald is now online. ➤ PAGE 19

PERSONALIZED MESSAGES

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider write their personalized message and sign off on a banner showing the photo of the 16 brave CNMI soldiers currently deployed to Afghanistan with the 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion of the Guam Army National Guard. The banner, also with messages written by families of the soldiers, will be sent to Afghanistan by the CNMI chapter of the Guam National Guard Family Readiness Group and will be displayed along with the CNMI flag at the soldiers' unit headquarters.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BY SUMMER 2014

Palms Resort to reopen as Sheraton

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» CNMI officials welcome investor plans

E-Land Group's Micronesia Resort Inc. will be bringing to Saipan the international Sheraton brand when it reopens the former The Palms Resort in summer 2014, adding to the optimism about the CNMI's resurging economy.

See SHERATON on Page 4

Audit bares PSS deficiencies

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An independent audit on the Public School System has identified major deficiencies that mostly cover contract awards, disbursements, and travels incurred in fiscal year 2011.

A questioned cost of over half a million dollars—including unresolved costs in previous reports—was also identified in the single audit conducted by Deloitte & Touche LLC. The 102-page report was submitted to the Board of Education on Feb. 26 and adopted a week ago.

Based on the audit findings, PSS was qualified as a "high-risk auditee," which means it has a high risk of not complying with federal laws and regulations.

A total of 30 audit findings and a total of $574,362 in questioned cost was noted on PSS internal control and compliance, including $139,541 representing unresolved

See PSS on Page 4

A closer look at $123.4M budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Items in Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed fiscal year 2014 budget of $123.4 million are consistent with the governor's and lawmakers' earlier public statements about prioritizing the NMI Retirement Fund, cutting costs, and improving efficiency, among other things.

"As a whole, I believe the budget strategy is a result of collaboration between the administration and the lawmakers. There are no surprises, we already knew what to expect such as consolidating and privatizing certain programs. This will make the budget process this year easier than in previous years," Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said yesterday.

Once the House holds its next session, tentatively set for next week, the

See BUDGET on Page 4

IN A NUTSHELL

Highlights of the governor's FY 2014 budget of $123.4 million:

- Retirement Fund: $20 million, up from $10 million
- Public School System: $33 million, up from $30 million
- Northern Marianas College: $5.029 million, up from $4.511 million
- All sworn police officers and firefighters funded at 86 and 106 regular hours
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. government subsidy remains at over $1.9M

See NUTSHELL on Page 4

Faisao papers yet to reach my desk—Inos. PAGE 2

Diaz: Most public health units lack SOP's. PAGE 3

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Local

'Faisao papers yet to reach my desk'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday "every person that's working in this government is qualified to do whatever they're doing" but clarified that former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao's personnel papers in connection with a job at the CNMI Office of Grants Management have yet to reach his office for review and approval.

"They are qualified until they cease to be qualified," Inos said in a chance interview yesterday afternoon, when asked about Faisao being considered for a job at an agency that has oversight over all grants that the CNMI government receives.

The governor said that Faisao was the "point of contact" on most of the grants that DCCA received when he was secretary.

"So he's done grant negotiations and so he's pretty well versed on DCCA grants, that's why it's beneficial that he be retained in that capacity until things are settled down," Inos said, although he has yet to see Faisao's employment papers.

These federal grants that DCCA receives include those on older Americans, historic preservation, food stamp and childcare, among other things.

Inos also described as "political posturing" the criticisms heaped on the administration for considering Faisao for the CNMI Office of Grants Management post, although he did not directly answer the question whether somebody else in his administration insisted on Faisao's hiring.

"Those are all political posturing, you know. Some people made it their professional career just to try to bring people down because those people don't see eye to eye with other people, especially from a political spectrum. I'm not in that league as you can tell. Everybody expected me to get rid of governor Fitial supporters…I keep people with performance. Yes, I do take concerns regarding the way people conduct themselves and so forth, but still performance is a very important aspect of my administration," the governor added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan also said that Faisao's employment documents are currently under process and have yet to be reviewed and approved by the governor and the Office of the Attorney General.

"Although he has started reporting for work, he is doing so on the condition that he must meet all necessary requirements in accordance [with] personnel rules and regulations. This includes pending review and approval by the Office of the Attorney General and the governor," Demapan added.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) said government officials "have to listen to their constituents."

Tebuteb and other lawmakers have expressed reservations about Faisao's qualifications and government re-employment.

Meanwhile, Inos met with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Commonwealth Ports Authority officials yesterday afternoon over a utility billings dispute that the governor hopes will be resolved.

"It's a meeting that I've asked for… simply because I wanted the two agencies to settle the issue of who owns what pertaining to utility, especially the water consumption," he said.

CPA and CUC, according to the governor, are in "disagreement" over "what's owed and who's owed what."

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Diaz: Most public health units lack standard procedures

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The lack of standard operating procedures in most units of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. adversely affects the performance assessment of both employees and the units they serve, according to Division of Public Health director Roxanne Diaz.

"Many of our units actually don't have SOPs; it's just never been there. Coming in to the division (as director), that's the goal I want to achieve within this year—to install consistency on how we run business here," Diaz said.

Less than 5 percent of the units under DPH have actual protocols and SOPs in place, she said. When new employees come aboard, there's nothing they can use as guidelines on what they have to do, she added.

Diaz disclosed that many of the staffers come into the system without a background, no formal training, and mostly learn about their jobs as they go along. She described this practice as "unacceptable" for an agency that deals with healthcare issues.

When asked why these units don't have SOPs, Diaz said: "I think it's because it was never required [before]. There was an assessment done and the finding is people are doing things the way they were taught how…and not the way [the units] are designed to be. There's no measure in place to make sure that it's the way it should be running because everybody just learned it on the job and that's unacceptable."

She cited the existing procedure for obtaining health information where "data is only received when the agency is applying for grant applications."

Diaz is confident, however, that she can come up with a "unified direction" for all units under the division. She said the corporation needs a systematic infrastructure that would not depend on a single employee or individual to do certain jobs.

One method that Diaz has recommended to corporation management is the creation of a health planning statistics office that would consolidate and centralize data systems and infrastructure. At present, various data people within the program are "doing their own thing," she said.

Using a systematic pattern will enable the division to come up with not only accurate data but also monitor progress based on given indicators, Diaz said.

Visiting consultant Dr. Poki Stewart Namkung said that Diaz's plans and recommendations for a unified SOP and a cost-analysis in every unit is "an approach in the right way with the right methodology and with integrity in trying to bring her whole department along, which was never been done before."

Diaz said she will also work with the corporation's human resource office to get the most qualified candidates for many of the vacant posts at the Commonwealth Health Center.

According to Diaz, majority—or 80 percent—of public health staff are paid using federal funds while the rest are paid using local monies.

She estimates the total number of staff on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at 103.

'Lenient' plea deal in sex abuse case rejected

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has rejected as too lenient a proposed plea deal for a man accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl since she was just 10 years old on Tinian.

Camacho said that if he were to accept the plea deal, Anthony Herrera Borja will only serve 22 percent of a possible 36-year sentence.

Under the proposed plea agreement offered by the Office of the Attorney General, Borja will plead guilty to a lesser charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

The government will recommend a sentence of 10 years in prison, all suspended except for between 0 and 8 years as determined by the court; 10 years' probation; $1,000 fine, and $1,200 in probation fees and court costs.

In rejecting the proposed plea deal, Camacho said that the case against Borja involves the sexual penetration of a 10-year-old child.

"The proposed agreement is not in line with the standard of this court and the CNMI community," said Camacho in a written order issued Friday.

Camacho is known for rejecting plea agreements and imposing maximum sentences.

The OAG charged the 20-year-old Borja with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, indecent exposure in the first degree, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Borja allegedly had sex with a 10-year-old girl in March or May 2010. He was 18 when he allegedly committed the crime.

The girl told police that Borja began touching her privates when she was just 6 years old and that he had sex with her monthly since she was 10.

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PSS

From Page 1

questioned cost in fiscal year 2010.

In each audit finding, up to 19 "conditions" represent situations where certain policies or standards may have been violated.

Deloitte & Touche also raised concerns about the processing and recording of purchases and disbursements.

For instance, of the 11 non-payroll disbursements tested, one item showed that PSS was billed 2,022 hours of service at $3.40 per hour while a related invoice indicated 1,974 hours of service, resulting in an overpayment. One item totaling $1,540 for travel from Oct. 15, 2010, through Oct. 22, 2010, showed that the voucher was not liquidated until May 14, 2011, when PSS travel policy requires liquidation of travel advances within 15 days from completion of travel.

Also, the auditor noted that $1,110 related to per diem and layovers was calculated using U.S. federal per diem guidelines that were not effective as of Oct. 1, 2010. The invoice for one item, a $2,000 deposit related to a $9,954 purchase, was procured through sole-source method and was dated May 1, 2009, but the sole-source justification for the remaining balance was dated May 26, 2011.

The audit also uncovered instances where supporting invoices and contracts for 10 transactions were not available. For one $20,593 item disbursed on Feb. 22, 2012, the supporting invoice totaled only $1,711.

Written justification from the education commissioner or indication of advice from the legal counsel could not be provided to substantiate the use of competitive sealed proposals. Also, the bidding times for some invitations for bid were less than 30 days and there was no evidence that the procurement officer determined that a shorter period is reasonable and necessary.

PSS also recorded travel advances totaling $620,274 in September 2011. Some of these advances were aged and supporting voucher were not available, making them potentially uncollectible.

Travels, payroll

Still on travels, the audit found that about 87 percent of the general ledger balance is greater than 120 days old; travel advances dating back to 1999 have not been timely liquidated; cash receipts for liquidated travel advances are not directly applied to the related advance; and travel liquidation policies are not consistently followed.

The report bared that many employee salaries and wages are not supported by an approved employment contract or personnel action form, timecards, and approved timesheets.

The audit also found out that PSS has not been paying its withholding taxes with the CNMI government. Deloitte & Touche suggested coming up with solution on this matter with the CNMI Finance secretary.

In some payroll periods, the system was found not remitting its employees' contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Most of the findings presented by the auditor were concurred by the school system, through acting finance director George Palican and program managers and they vowed to implement corrective action plans. Many of the corrective actions were noted by PSS as "ongoing."

BUDGET

From Page 1

governor's budget submission would be referred to the House Ways and Means Committee that Sablan chairs.

From the original projection of $114 million, the proposed budget is now at $123.4 million, due to forecasted increases in business gross revenue tax and hotel occupancy tax.

"Tourism has steadily been showing promising signs of growth and the Commonwealth has realized significant increased tax collections in this industry," Inos said in his letter to the Legislature on Friday.

Besides increased funding to the Retirement Fund and the Public School System, the governor's proposed budget also proposes to merge the Workforce Investment Agency with the Department of Labor.

The governor also proposes to eliminate and transition the Division of Sports and Recreation from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, or NMASA.

The budget package also transitions the Workers' Compensation Commission into the Department of Commerce pursuant to Public Law 17-88.

It also transitions the Office of Personnel Management on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota into the Civil Service Commission pursuant to PL 17-80.

Inos said his budget proposal also anticipates the transfer of the Group Health and Life Insurance Program from the Fund to the Department of Finance.

The governor's budget also privatizes the functions of the Division of Parks and Recreation, by outsourcing grounds maintenance services for all parks and recreational areas. DPR is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources

"A privatization plan is being developed to mitigate potential impacts prior to its implementation," the governor said.

He added that employees affected are highly encouraged to become entrepreneurs who will have an opportunity to participate in competitive solicitations to perform grounds maintenance services as part of the Tourism Task Force Initiatives to keep the CNMI well-manicured.

Based on the budget submission, DPR's budget for personnel is "zeroed out" for fiscal year 2014, but its "all others" is at over $468,000, a reduction of over $146,000 from the current level.

Rep. Tony Benavente (IR-Saipan), a former DPR director, said yesterday that privatizing DPR's functions will improve efficiency and save the government resources.

"The first year will always be a challenge. After that, when everything's already laid out, the contract cost would be much lower than the first year's. Employees can also be transitioned into other areas in government or private sector," Benavente said.

The governor also urges other government agencies to evaluate existing programs that may be downsized or considered for outsourced activities to realize savings while continuing to meet program objectives. This is also seen as a way to develop the private sector capacity.

Others

The governor's budget applies the federally mandated 50-cent minimum wage increase effective Sept. 30, 2013, for those currently earning $5.55 an hour.

It also decentralizes utility expenses into the respective departments.

The budget also removes all deputy positions and all vacant and new positions except those announced.

The governor proposes to reduce "all others" allocation, specifically removing local travel funds and imposing travel restrictions.

The budget also continues to suspend earmarks from nonresident worker fund fees to Northern Marianas College and PSS, and 10 percent of gaming jackpot tax to PSS. It also continues to suspend 10 percent of general fund poker fees to human resources development fund and 50 percent to the Fund.

The administration expects $1.4 million from the transitional Commonwealth-only worker, or CW fund, $1.93 million from Compact-Impact funds, and $5.26 million from public lands.

How much are they getting?

The Executive Branch's total budget is $34.209 million, up from $30.359 million, mostly to increase funding for the Fund and other public services.

The proposed budget for the Judicial Branch is $4.243 million, up from $3.739 million.

The proposed budget for the Legislature is $5.28 million, from $5.23 million.

For Rota, the proposed budget is $5.357 million, up from $4.420 million

The proposed budget for Tinian is $5.916 million, up from $4.620 million.

The Saipan Mayor's Office's budget is at $1.345 million, compared to $1.165 million currently.

The governor's proposed budget for the Northern Islands' Mayor's Office is $373,754, up from $334,158.

Boards and commissions' budget is proposed at $1.203 million, compared to the current $1.083 million.

Medicaid reimbursement is at $4.301 million, up from $3.928 million.

Northern Marianas College is at $5.029 million, up from $4.511 million.

MVA is at $1.161 million, down from $2.007 million, but MVA is set to get an increase from other sources such as a portion of the increase in hotel occupancy taxes since April 1 this year.

The proposed budget for the Board of Education remains at $172,257.

NUTSHELL

From Page 1

- Consolidation of Workforce Investment Agency and Department of Labor
- Transitioning of the Division of Sports and Recreation from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs into the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, or NMASA
- The Workers' Compensation Commission is merged into the Department of Commerce
- The Office of Personnel Management is transitioned into the Civil Service Commission
- The functions of the Division of Parks and Recreation are privatized, by outsourcing grounds maintenance services for all parks and recreational areas.
- Decentralization of utility expenses into respective departments
- Removal of all deputy positions, and all vacant and new posts except those announced
- Cut in "all others" allocations, specifically removal of local travel funds and imposing travel restrictions
- Executive Branch: $34.209 million, up from $30.359 million
- Judiciary: $4.243 million, up from $3.739 million
- Legislature: $5.28 million, up from $5.23 million
- Rota: $5.357 million, up from $4.420 million
- Tinian: $5.916 million, up from $4.620 million
- Saipan Mayor's Office: $1.345 million, up from $1.165 million
- Northern Islands' Mayor's Office: $373,754, up from $334,158
- Medicaid reimbursement: $4.301 million, up from $3.928 million

SHERATON

From Page 1

Tae Ho Kim, president and general manager of E-Land's Micronesia Resort Inc., also announced yesterday the company's renovation plans for the two other Saipan hotels it has acquired: Coral Ocean Point and Pacific Islands Club.

E-Land Group is a $180-billion global firm based in South Korea.

E-Land, through its local company Micronesia Resort Inc., acquired the 313-room The Palms Resort in San Roque in August 2011 and has since spent considerable time and money planning its eventual transformation.

The Palms Resort used to be former Hotel Nikko.

"We are happy to announce that Palms will be undergoing these major renovations shortly and reopening as a five-star resort under the international Sheraton brand by summer 2014," Kim said in a statement yesterday afternoon.

E-Land also acquired in 2012 the Coral Ocean Point in Unai Dangkulo near the Saipan International Airport.

Kim said they have immediate plans to pump $10 million into the Coral Ocean Point property "so that it can once again regain its status of being one of the CNMI's world-class golf resorts with its magnificent courses and 90-room hotel."

The South Korean-based conglomerate also invested in Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Kim said E-Land is "pleased to announce that there have been no operational problems or loss in quality of service" at PIC.

"We are still operating at full capacity and are still welcoming tourists and local residents. We intend to further renovate this Saipan landmark with new attractions and services in the next few months," Kim said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the administration welcomes E-Land's announcement "at a time when our primary industry is in need of increasing its lodging capacity."

"As evidenced over the peak season for tourists, the Commonwealth was experiencing a lack of hotel rooms as all our major hotels and resorts were filled to capacity," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

The Inos administration also looks forward to the entry of the international Sheraton brand into the CNMI.

"While this move will open up the much needed hotel rooms we need, the administration also welcomes the branding choice under the Sheraton flagship since it will give our visitors another choice in five-star resort accommodations. Gov. [Eloy] Inos and Lt. Gov. [Jude] Hofschneider hope to see this reopening happen expeditiously," the press secretary said.

Demapan said the administration took E-Land's plan into consideration when it was preparing the fiscal year 2014 budget proposal.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos submitted on Friday a $123.4 million fiscal year 2014 budget, more than the earlier projection of $114 million under the fiscal year 2013 budget.

"The underlying factor here is that under the E-Land acquisition plan of the former Palms, the conglomerate had already intended to rebrand the hotel and re-open it up for occupancy. The budget as a whole takes into account the overall projections of the tourism industry and the increasing trend that has been recorded month after month," Demapan added.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) separately said yesterday he's "pleased to hear about E-Land's plans, that those are forthcoming."

Sablan, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, earlier questioned E-Land's capability to develop and renovate the hotels located on public and private lands.

"Information sharing is to the benefit of everybody with a stake in the economy and tourism," Sablan said.

E-Land Group itself is optimistic about the CNMI. It said it strongly believes in the CNMI's future and "has concluded a series of real estate purchases on the island of Saipan through its local company, Micronesia Resort Inc."

"In closing, we are every excited about our presence in the CNMI and we intend to expand our investment into international retail and dining options in order to offer local residents and tourists alike new shopping and dining experiences. We will further solidify this commitment by upgrading our existing hotel facilities and contributing to the economic development of the CNMI by creating jobs and opportunities for its people. Our company will also stand by its philanthropic principles and we look forward to seeking out new opportunities to give back to the community," Kim said.

E-Land Group was founded in 1980 as a small clothing shop in Seoul, South Korea, and has since grown to a $180-billion group that has interests in its core fashion apparel business, retail malls, theme parks, construction and hotels.

It currently operates 15 hotels in Korea and China, three of which are luxury resorts. The company also engages in franchised food retail businesses that include the operation of fast food outlets, family restaurants, take-out coffee shops, and bakeries.

E-Land Group operates primarily in South Korea, China, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

More information about E-Land Group is available at http://en.eland.com.

Sequestration scuttles CPA fire truck project; conference junked

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Sequestration, or automatic budget cuts, at the national level has already begun to affect the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, who cited some funding requirements that were cut from the next fiscal year's budget.

So far, Deleon Guerrero said, CPA won't be able to procure new fire trucks for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as planned after the Federal Aviation Administration decided to put off giving this funding assistance this year and just include it in next year's priority.

"We really need to purchase three fire trucks, one each for three islands, and that was supposed to happen this fiscal year. But because of the sequestration, FAA moved around the priorities and our funding request for these fire trucks will happen next fiscal year," he said.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that the annual FAA-sponsored directors' conference will also not happen this fiscal year after the event was cancelled at the national level.

The annual directors' conference brings together chiefs of airports and seaport facilities to share informations about their projects, achievements, grants, plans, etc.

"Normally, when we go to the directors' conference…that's the time we would know how much potential funding is allotted for CPA. But because sequestration restricts a lot of travels FAA can do, we have no idea at this time about our funding assistance," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune.*

CPA receives $5 million to $6 million in funding assistance from FAA every fiscal year through the agency's airport improvement project, or AIP program entitlement.

Besides the AIP grant, the ports authority also competes for discretionary FAA funds. Among CPA's projects that obtained discretionary funding were the airport's main runway rehabilitation, the construction of the ARFF center, replacement of new air-conditioning units, and roof repairs, among others.

The runway project is expected to be completed on Aug. 5. FAA is shouldering the full cost of the project, which as of last year totaled $32 million.

Other projects being funded by FAA discretionary funds are ongoing at this time and won't be affected by sequestration, said Deleon Guerrero.

The FAA, under sequestration, had to cut $637 million as its share in the $85 billion in automatic, government-wide spending cuts that must be achieved by the end of the federal budget year on Sept. 30.

ATV business OK'd for Ladder Beach

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board recently approved the conditional use permit application of DH Co., Ltd. to operate an all-terrain vehicle business in Ladder Beach.

The board unanimously approved the application during its April 18 meeting at the Zoning office in Dandan.

Present at the meeting were board chair Diego C. Blanco, vice chair Herman P. Sablan, secretary Gus Kaipat, and members Mable Ayuyu and Bruce Bateman.

The Korean-owned company's ATV business will be in an area that is currently zoned rural.

Owner Jung Hwa Park, through interpreter and authorized representative Jin Koo Cho, said their company aims to provide a recreational activity that caters to the growing number of Korean and Chinese tourists on island.

The ATV course would last 1.5 hours and would include a side trip to a nearby farm where customers can enjoy coconut and other fresh tropical fruits, then head to the Obyan beach to enjoy the waters before finally concluding the tour.

Park said they have 16 brand-new, Taiwan-made ATVs that run 20 to 30 miles per hour and do not create excessive noise. All passengers, he added, will wear safety equipment such as helmet and knee pads.

Bateman raised concerns about farm owners or ranchers who might be affected by the ATV operation but Park said they did not receive any complaints regarding their proposed business.

Sablan, for his part, is concerned about the safety of the ATV customers who might get off the course during the tour, particularly in "blind spot" areas.

Efrain Muna, a resident in the area, expressed reservations about the proposed ATV operations as another company doing a similar business "is giving me problems." However, DH Co. Ltd. officials assured that they will stick to their course and implement speed limits.

The board approved the permit, provided that the applicant adheres to the conditions, including coming up with a traffic safety plan in consultation with the Department of Public Safety; submission of an accurate site plan within seven days of permit approval; employing landscaping in their façade and west side of the property; speed limit at 35 mph; and limiting the number of ATV units at 25.

The board, which initially set the hours of operation from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm, changed it to 8am to 5pm.

If concerns are raised due to noise, operations will have to be suspended pending the conduct of a study or assessment of the situation.

Meanwhile, the Zoning Office already looked at Muna's complaint on the other ATV operator, which was found out to be operating without a zoning permit.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said yesterday that they met with the operator who is scheduled to appear before the board during a public hearing this month.

Man allegedly tries to have sex with godson

A Rota liaison employee was arrested Sunday morning for allegedly trying to have sex with his 21-year-old godson inside a vehicle in As Lito.

Police said the victim managed to run to a jungle where he hid for several hours.

Allan Apatang Taitano, 43, was taken to Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to arrest Taitano for disturbing the peace but no probable cause for sexual assault in the second degree. He set Taitano's bail at $500 cash.

Police detective Israel M. De Leon stated in his report that a police officer responded to an apartment in As Lito after receiving a call about sexual assault case.

The victim told police that he and Taitano had just come from a drinking session with his mother and friends early Sunday morning and that he gave Taitano a ride as his godfather was already drunk.

The victim said that Taitano made him park the car in an open field past the Saipan International School and allegedly told him to take his pants off. He refused, got out of the car, and ran into the jungle.

After four hours of waiting for Taitano to leave, the victim came out of the jungle and saw that the suspect had fallen asleep in the car's front passenger seat.

The victim got into the car and drove back home with Taitano still asleep. Upon arriving home, the victim told his mother what happened.

Police arrested the suspect at his residence in Dandan that same morning. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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258 individuals benefit from Region 2 Lions' medical services

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lions pose for a group photo during the Region 2 Lions Clubs Annual Medical Mission/Health Fair at the Joeten-Daidai Social Hall of Mount Carmel Cathedral on Sunday.

The Region 2 Lions Clubs Annual Medical Mission/Health Fair last Sunday proved to be a success, with a total of 258 individuals availing of the medical services provided by the organization's community partners.

Ladyvir Canape, Region 2 Lions Clubs chair, said in an interview that they had to rush setting up the Mount Carmel Cathedral Joeten-Daidai Social Hall, which served as their venue, as patrons started lining up as early as 6am.

Despite the early start, the Lions were able to facilitate the registration and checkup process, and this year's event was even more organized compared to last year, said Canape.

The free services provided included blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, vision checkup, and free health consultations. These services were provided by volunteers from the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club, PHI Pharmacy, Commonwealth Health Center nurses, and the Hardt Eye Clinic.

The Region 2 Lions Clubs—composed of Saipan Marianas, Saipan Unity, Saipan Fil-Am, and the soon to be chartered Tinian Lions clubs—also distributed 165 pairs of eyeglasses, a trademark activity of the organization.

Canape said the eyeglasses were provided by Region 2 itself, unlike previous medical missions when Guam Lions donated the glasses.

Now on its third year, the medical mission is an annual event that is part of the Region 2 Lions Clubs' community service.

Canape said the event depends on the schedule of the officials of District 204, which encompasses Region 2. District officials led by governor Herbie Perez and governor-elect Annabel Dancel of Guam were on island for the Sunday medical mission and the fundraiser for Tinian Lions Club last Saturday.

Region 2 hopes to hold next year's event during its original schedule between November and March, added Canape.

With the anticipated chartering of the Tinian Lions Club, Canape expressed hope that the Region 2 Annual Medical Mission can be extended to the southern island. "It would be great if we can also provide medical services to the community of Tinian," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Canape thanked all Lions and volunteers as well as event sponsors IT&E, Coca-Cola, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Brabu Pharmacy, Cosmos Distributing, D&Q, Saipan Ice, JG Ice & Water, McDonald's, Joeten Enterprises, D'Elegance, The Lounge, Kingfisher, Barny's Pizza, Kalayaan, Reps. John Paul Sablan, Frank Dela Cruz, Tony Benavente, and Tony Agulto, and Sens. Ray Yumul and Pete Reyes.

CNMI govt transfers $535,000 to the Fund

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has transferred a total of $535,000 to the NMI Retirement Fund in compliance with a court order following the April 19, 2013, status conference.

Assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan disclosed that a few hours after the status hearing, the government transferred $323,000 to the Fund. Additional amounts of $19,887.72 and $192,068.26 were transferred on April 23.

"In total since the status hearing, the government has transferred approximately $535,000 to the Fund which is the amount the CNMI government determined not to be in dispute," she said in the government's notice of motion filed Friday in federal court.

At the April 19 status conference in retiree Betty Johnson's lawsuit against the Fund and the CNMI government, Fund trustee *ad litem* counsel Daniel Berman told the court about an alleged $833,000 shortage in the allotments from a $10 million legislative appropriation.

On April 22, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood directed Finance Secretary Larissa Larson to work with Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan to determine whether there is a shortage in the allotments owed the Fund.

The judge further directed Larson to transfer to the Fund by April 23, 2013, any money that is not in dispute.

In the government's motion filed Friday, Sablan said the government did not have notice at that time that the issue would be raised and could not attest to the veracity of Berman's representation.

Sablan also disclosed that on April 23 or after the three transfers were made, Fund administrator Pangelinan sent Larson an email claiming that the government owed $2.156 million, an amount significantly above the $833,333 claimed at the status hearing.

Sablan said due to the drastic change in amounts, Larson must now go through every transfer to determine where the discrepancies lie.

She said the government believes the disputes arise from amounts paid in fiscal year 2013, but applied to previous years.

The lawyer said the government will make the transfers to the Fund as more amounts that are not in dispute are found.

Sablan, however, requested the court to reconsider its order requiring the government to pay undisputed amounts to the Fund.

Sablan said the government has substantially complied with the order. However, in order to protect its rights on appeal (that is, if settlement negotiations fail to resolve this matter), the government must file the motion for reconsideration.

She said the government is participating in settlement negotiations in good faith and was under the belief that the settlement process would suspend the need for litigation and motion practice.

"Unfortunately, the Fund's recent request and the court's subsequent order requiring the government to pay leave the government with no choice but to file this motion to protect its rights," she said.

Sablan pointed out that the government believes that Tydingco-Gatewood's order effectively serves as a mandatory injunction, and the Fund has not demonstrated that a mandatory injunction is warranted.

As such, she said, the order requiring the government to pay is not supported in law.

Accordingly, Sablan said, the government want the court to reconsider and rescind the part of the April 22 order that requires the Finance secretary to pay the Fund.

Sablan said the government remains committed to the settlement talks.

She said the government will also continue to remit payments to the Fund pursuant to the $10 million appropriation in the fiscal year 2013 budget.

UFO starts gearing up for *Pistang Pinoy*

»Inactive member groups urged to rejoin network

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization is inviting all its members to attend an upcoming meeting in preparation for the *Pistang Pinoy* festivities.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said the meeting is scheduled on May 5, Sunday, from 10am to 3pm at the Filcom Pavilion in Susupe.

Adaza said the meeting also aims to encourage inactive member organizations to be in the loop on and get involved in UFO activities once again. According to Adaza, some of these groups have become inactive due to the decline in their membership over the years.

She emphasized the important role UFO members play to ensure the success of activities and events spearheaded by the network of Filipino organizations in the Commonwealth.

Adaza noted that this will be the first year that UFO will coordinate the *Pistang Pinoy* (Filipino fiesta) celebration following the closure of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan in November 2012.

The membership meeting, Adaza added, is also an opportunity for non-member groups to know more about UFO and the many ways they can get involved in the umbrella organization.

"We encourage all UFO member organizations to send their representatives to attend this important meeting," Adaza told *Saipan Tribune*.

For more information, call or text Annamae Adaza at 483-5237 or secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021.

Ex-DJ inks plea deal in arson case

Aziz Peter Mettao, a former disc jockey who is facing charges in federal court for setting fire to a car owned by Power 99 Studio, has signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Assistant attorney general Rami S. Badawy informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday that the plea deal was filed in court last Thursday.

The prosecutor asked the court to set Mettao's change of plea hearing for May 13 at 9am.

Last October, the court granted a motion to order a psychiatric exam on Mettao to determine if he is competent to stand trial. Mettao, 27, was reportedly admitted to the Federal Detention Center in Washington on Dec. 19, 2012, for a competency evaluation.

Mettao allegedly used beer bottles that he filled with flammable liquid to burn Power 99's vehicle in the early morning of Sept. 10, 2012, in western Garapan.

Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives arrested Mettao on Oct. 19, 2012.

ATF charged Mettao with malicious use of explosive materials, a felony that carries a penalty for a maximum term of 10 years or more in prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

GTC's Gloria Nauta is PSS administrative staff of the year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Gloria Nauta was recognized by the both the Board of Education and the Public School System as the State Administrative Staff of the Year for school year 2013.

Nauta was bestowed the plaque of recognition by Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., and board chair Herman T. Guerrero during last week's Administrative Professional Day celebration.

Nauta

Nauta, a mother of four children and wife to Herbert SN. Nauta, described her latest achievement as unexpected but fulfilling for her and her family. She dedicated the award to them for never failing to inspire her to do better every day.

"This is truly rewarding and a great inspiration! Knowing that there are a lot of hard working people [at PSS], this is something unexpected! If you love what you're doing, you will never thought of having this…. and it's so fulfilling," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Nauta joined GTC's Binadu family in November 2009. As the school's administrative assistant, Nauta assists over 200 schoolchildren and 18 colleagues in school everyday.

This was Nauta's first time to be nominated and to actually win both the schoolwide and overall award. She extended her deepest appreciation to her colleagues, school principal Charlotte Camacho, and students for their support.

Camacho said that Nauta was chosen for the honor due to her consistently satisfactory attendance, work ethic, and dependability.

This school year, two other GTC personnel were also honored with education award. They included Amparo Q. Camacho, who won the overall PSS Counselor of the Year, and Maria Corazon San Nicolas as State Librarian of the Year.

GTC is home to 213 students and 19 personnel this school year.

‘Dynasty underreporting receipts or getting cash from other means’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino was either underreporting its reportable cash receipts or is receiving large amounts of cash through other unidentified means, according to Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation special agent Todd M. Peterson.

In his declaration, Peterson said the Currency Transaction Report, or CTR, filings by Tinian Dynasty, and Bank of Guam and Bank of Saipan where it conducts banking activities, seem to indicate that Tinian Dynasty was “extremely cash negative.”

Federal law requires that a CTR be filed with the IRS by financial institutions, including casinos, for any cash transaction over $10,000.

Peterson attached his declaration in support of a criminal complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI against Tinian Dynasty, VIP services manager George Que, and casino manager Tim Blythe.

For instance, Peterson said, between January 2007 and September 2009, Tinian Dynasty filed cash-out CTR’s of $43,690,410 and cash-in CTRs of $25,114,002, resulting in net cash-out of $18,576,408 from reportable cash transactions.

During the same period, Peterson said, Tinian Dynasty deposited into its own bank accounts $16,038,931 in reportable cash transactions and withdrew only $2,779,610 in reportable cash transactions, resulting in a net cash “outflow” of $13,259,371.

Taken together, Tinian Dynasty disbursed $31,831,179 more than it received in reportable transactions, Peterson said.

“This massive amount of outgoing cash without an apparent corresponding legitimate source seems to indicate that [Tinian Dynasty] was either underreporting its reportable cash receipts (when it was still filing CTRs), or is receiving large amounts of cash through other means that have not been identified,” said Peterson in his financial analysis.

Citing records of the U.S. Department of Treasury’s FinCEN, Peterson said the data show that Tinian Dynasty routinely filed CTRs from 1998 to September 2009 but abruptly stopped on Sept. 12, 2009.

The complaint alleges that Que, Blythe, and the casino conspired to allow gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than $10,000 without filing the required CTRs with the U.S. government.

Federal agents arrested Que on Thursday. He was subsequently released on certain conditions. As of press time, it was not clear if Blythe has already been located.

Thursday presentation on birdlife of Mariana Islands

On Thursday, May 2, 2013, from 4:15pm to 5:30pm, an interesting talk concerning island birdlife and its conservation will be held at the American Memorial Park auditorium. APASEEM will be hosting in cooperation with DFW and visiting scientists. All interested members of the public are invited to attend.

The mid-1980s saw the brown tree snake either extirpate or drive to extinction nine of 12 species of forest bird in Guam. Almost 20 years later the U.S. Department of the Interior determined that Saipan may support an “incipient” population of this serious invasive predator. In 2005 the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums determined that preemptive action was necessary for the CNMI’s birdlife to avoid the fate that befell Guam—thus the Mariana Avifauna Conservation, or MAC, Project became a reality.

The MAC Project’s endeavors are two-fold; 1) the maintenance of captive populations (which serve as genetic reserves) of the CNMI’s native and endemic forest bird species at AZA-affiliated institutions in the U.S. mainland, and 2) the establishment of satellite populations of these bird species on islands in the Mariana archipelago deemed safe from brown tree snakes.

Captive breeding programs at participating zoos in the U.S. mainland have thus far experienced success with the Mariana Fruit Dove, the White-throated Ground Dove, and the Golden White-eye. Likewise, satellite populations of Bridled White-eyes, Golden White-eyes, and Mariana Fruit Doves have successfully been established on Sarigan via a program of conservation introduction. In both endeavors, however, there is more work ahead of the MAC Project.

In April and May this year, 16 staff members from 10 AZA-affiliated zoos and conservation organizations will join DFW on Saipan to execute the eighth year of the MAC Project’s annual field efforts. This year’s focus will be the translocation of Mariana Fruit Doves and Rufous Fantails from Saipan to Sarigan, and the addition of fantails and Bridled White-eyes to captive programs at zoos in the United States.

Presenting on this topic will be CNMI ornithologist Paul Radley, together with visiting scientists Herb Roberts of the Memphis Zoo, and Ellen Gorrell of the Toledo Zoo. Additional program information is available by visiting the Facebook page Gorrell maintains via https://www.facebook.com/MarianaAvifaunaConservation. For more information about APASEEM, visit http://www.apaseem.org. ***(APASEEM)***

30th Agricultural Fair gears up

The Saipan Agricultural Fair Association is gearing up for the 30th Saipan Agricultural Fair, which is set for Saturday, June 15, 2013, at the Civic Center Beach, Susupe.

RB Camacho, chairman for the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association, said that farmers should already be preparing for this event.

“Only produce grown on Saipan shall be entered in the competition. The produce must have been grown by the farmer or individual contestant or his/her immediate family. This rule applies to animals. Only animals raised on Saipan may be entered into the competition,” he said.

The prize for each competition varies by the category. The plant division has four categories: fruits, vegetables, root crops, nuts, and others. The animal division has 13 categories: Santa Gertrudis bull/cow, non-Santa Gertrudis bull/cow, boar, sow/gilt, billy, nanny, rabbit, duck, turkey, pigeon, chicken broiler, chicken layers, and chicken sports.

“We are ready for this year’s Ag Fair. In fact, we have already received support from a few community members that we’ve developed a raffle fundraiser,” said Camacho. “Each ticket is $5. The raffle will assist in defraying costs related to organizing this annual event, but more importantly, the raffle funds will augment the prizes to be awarded.”

According to Camacho, prizes are: first place, cattle; second place, pig; third place, pig; fourth place, goat; fifth place, pair of ducks; sixth place, pair of chickens; and seventh place, a pair of pigeon.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from any of the SAFA members.

The fair is a partnership of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, NMC CREES, Department of Public Works, Nutrition Assistance Program, Division of Environmental Quality, and the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association. For more information about the entry rules or about the fair in general, contact 664-8512. ***(PR)***

15th
TASTE OF THE
MARIANAS
MAY 2013
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2013
Saturday, May 4, 2013
6:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony
6:10 p.m. Awadori Team
6:35 p.m. Ukelele Jams
7:05 p.m. Retro Jazz Band
7:30 p.m. Uncle Ben’s Music & Dance
8:05 p.m. Pacific Flower
9:05 p.m. Afetna Regime
Food Concessionaires
1. Fiesta Resort & Spa
2. Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan
3. Pacific Islands Club
4. Canton Restaurant
5. Furusato Restaurant
6. Sierra Pearl Shakes
7. Capricciosa/Tony Roma’s
8. D’Elegance Café
9. Herman’s Modern Bakery
10. Hula Girl/3’s
11. Thai House Restaurant
12. Poon’s Restaurant
13. Tropical Chill
14. Coral Ocean Point Resort
15. Mariana Resort & Spa
16. Saipan World Resort
Beer Garden Vendors
Pacific Trading Company
Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.
Northern Marianas Bartender Association
For more information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Headquarters at telephone numbers 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or visit the website at www.mymarianas.com
Saipan Tinian Rota
2013 CNMI TOURISM MONTH
“Tourism is Everybody’s Business”
Proclamation Signing
May 2, 2013
Governor Eloy S. Inos will officially declare the month of May 2013 as CNMI Tourism Month with a formal proclamation signing ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. The Marianas Visitors Authority and our industry partners invite the public to participate in the activities of the Tourism Month celebration.
“Hafa Adai Tirow” Spirit Island Wear Fridays
Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at “Saipan Tinian Rota” and get a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month t-shirt; one lucky winner per week will be chosen from all who post photos.
Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden
This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by 16 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.
“My Marianas” Community Outreach Presentation
Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.
On-the-Street Interviews
MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.
Radio Tourism Trivia
Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. “Did You Know?” and “Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas” will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM) and KZMI (103.9 FM).
Hot Dog Eating Competition
Saturday, May 4, 2013
1st Heat: 8:00 p.m. (under age 18)
2nd Heat: 9:00 p.m. (age 18 & over)
1st place: $50.00
2nd place: $30.00
3rd place: $20.00

15th Annual Taste of the Marianas starts Saturday

May Tourism Month and the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden kick off this week.

Preparations began last Saturday, April 27, for the monthlong observance, when the Japan Saipan Travel Association, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and other industry partners hosted their semi-annual Tourism Industry Cleanup in downtown Garapan, Saipan, beginning 6:30am at American Memorial Park.

Tourism Month will be officially proclaimed by Gov. Eloy Inos at a proclamation signing ceremony on Thursday, May 2, at 10:30am at the Office of the Governor.

May will be highlighted by the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden every Saturday beginning May 4 at American Memorial Park from 6pm to 10pm. Other activities for the month include "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit" Islandwear Fridays and Tourism Trivia at participating radio stations.

"We're looking forward to another great month of celebration during this year's May Tourism Month," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Of course, the biggest part of the celebration is the annual Taste of the Marianas. We invite everyone to come down and enjoy themselves at the biggest island party on a Saturday night in May!"

The Taste of the Marianas celebrates Tourism Month with international cuisine at affordable prices by 16 hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. ***(MVA)***

In this May 5, 2012, file photo, food vendors serve up dinner with a smile during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. MVA

Hundred-plus join travel industry cleanup

The Japan Saipan Travel Association and its tourism partners gave the gift of community service to clean up the main tourist district of Garapan on Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

The semi-annual cleanup came as part of preparations for visitors expected during Japan's upcoming Golden Week holiday and was also held in conjunction with the annual Island-wide Cleanup spearheaded by the Division of Environmental Qualities.

Beginning at 6:30am, 115 volunteers, including 20 children, collected nearly 250 lbs of trash along the tourist district roadways and beaches from the Carolinian Affairs Office to Micro Beach. Groups joining JSTA included the Japan Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Korean Tour Association of Saipan, Consulate Office of Japan, and the Marianas Visitors Authority. The MVA also provided water, and DEQ arranged for trash pickup. JSTA provided gifts to the participating children, including participants from Hosyuko Japanese school.

The cleanup is also in preparation for May Tourism Month, which will be proclaimed with an official ceremony by Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Thursday, May 2, at 10:30am at the Office of the Governor. ***(MVA)***

Over 100 volunteers from Japan Saipan Travel Association, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and other tourism partners netted 250 lbs of trash during their semiannual industry cleanup of Garapan on April 27, 2013. MVA

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 30, 2013

Govt, CUC sign agreement on utility bills

The Department of Finance inked with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. an agreement that would ensure uninterrupted power supply to government offices while negotiations are ongoing on how to resolve the billing dispute between the two. In a report submitted to Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday, Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig said the CNMI government and CUC agreed on five points for the negotiation, including the re-examination of the government's billing rates. This comes soon after the Superior Court issued an order stopping the utility agency from cutting off utility services to government offices. According to Atalig, Finance and CUC agreed that there would be no interruption in utility services to all CNMI facilities and that government billing rates would be reviewed to ensure that CNMI facilities are treated similar to commercial customers.

GHLI to be privatized by November

The Retirement Fund would soon bring onboard a consultant who would take on the task of working toward the eventual privatization of the Group Health and Life Insurance Program. According to GHLI program manager Dolores Moore, the RFP (request for proposals) period for a utilization reviewer closed Wednesday, after which the Fund's board of trustees would have to decide on which one to hire. The new consultant will be in charge of negotiations with insurance carriers in providing health coverage for all government employees who are members of Group Health. Until then, the candidate, preferably a professional in the medical field, will be involved in case management, insurance claims processing, and checking and paying medical bills from health care providers in Saipan, Guam, the Philippines and Hawaii.

Apr. 30, 2005

House wants to recall $20M borrowing bill

House members now want to take back the bill that calls for a $20-million loan for government employees' pay hike and retroactive pay, saying that it might only worsen the government's financial standing. The government currently faces a nearly $100- million deficit. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial said during Thursday's session that the bill should be reconsidered due to "language" problems. "We also favor the recall of that bill because that's not what we originally voted on," said House minority member Ray Tebuteb yesterday.

MPLT backs MPLA on underground cables

The Marianas Public Lands Authority has found an ally in opposing a proposed legislation barring the agency from charging a fee for utility cables buried in public lands. In an April 28 letter to House Speaker Benigno Fitial, the Marianas Public Land Trust said that House Bill 14-324 is unconstitutional and against the interests of the CNMI's indigenous people. Citing the Covenant and the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions, the MPLT trustees maintained that the lands affected by the bill belong collectively to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Apr. 30, 2006

'The Legislature wanted wage reduction'

The Fitial administration remains confident that the Legislature would pass, and not shelve, the wage reduction bill, saying that lawmakers were the ones who favored wage reduction over hourly reduction. Finance Secretary Eloy Inos said he hopes that allies in the Legislature would push for the bill's passage. "I hope they're still putting it on the table. Wage reduction is an important part of the [cost-saving] formula. It's a last resort but we have to do it now. the more delay, the less savings we're going to achieve so I hope that the bill is not shelved. I hope our friends in the Legislature will work with us," said the secretary during a press conference Friday at the Governor's Office.

NMC RHS program reviewed

The Northern Marianas College Rehabilitation and Human Services Program took a second look on its accomplishments in 2005. A second focus group meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Wednesday coordinated and facilitated by Angel Hart, administrative assistant, and Tee Abraham, director. According to the college's weekly update, the meeting was held to provide a progress report on program accomplishments to date and inform new attendees about the program and information on the Program Advisory Council and its roles and responsibilities.

Red Cross walkathon raises over $67K; over 3,150 walkers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The number of participants in the 27th Annual Red Cross Walkathon last April 13 reached an all-time high of over 3,150 walkers who helped generate $67,812 in donations to support the local chapter of the humanitarian organization.

The large turnout and the 10-percent increase in contributions collected was a result of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's collaboration not only with the Public School System and the private schools in the Commonwealth but also with the Head Start Program and the Child Care Program, said executive director John Hirsh.

Hirsh said the two programs have always been partners of the Red Cross but this year was the first time that they became involved in a "more in-depth level."

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Participants of the 27th Annual Red Cross Walkathon pass by a banner along Beach Road pathway on April 13.

He said the Red Cross made the extra effort to talk and convince the management of both programs to join the walkathon, making them feel as if they gained additional partners in the process.

"It's just incredible. The community really understands how Red Cross touches people's lives here, that's why they support our events. I think they really like this walkathon because it's an activity for the entire family and we're really grateful for their generous support," Hirsh told Saipan Tribune.

Hirsh noted that they received a lot of positive feedback for having shorter courses this year. He assured that the 2K, 5K, and 10K distances will carry on in 2014. "We found something new that worked with our participants, particularly the younger walkers," he added.

According to Hirsh, the amount collected from the walkathon will go to their working fund, which finances their various programs that benefit the community, including first aid and CPR certification courses, disaster response, and emergency preparedness.

Red Cross is also committed to supporting military personnel and their families, said Hirsh, who attended the Service to the Armed Forces training workshop held from April 22 to 26 in Yokota Air Base in Japan.

Hirsh acknowledged the teamwork of walkathon committee chairs Roxanne Ferrer and Larry Lee, school coordinators, participating students and community partners for making the event a success.

For more information, call American Red Cross-NMI Chapter at 234-3459.

Territorial sea, Rota Park bills move in Congress

The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved by unanimous consent Friday legislation conveying submerged lands to the Northern Mariana Islands and authorizing a study of the feasibility and suitability of a national park on Rota. The two bills were voted on as part of a group, most of which had been reported favorably in the last Congress and, in the case of the territorial sea and Rota Park bills, had been passed by the House of Representatives.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) thanked Natural Resources chair Doc Hastings for his decision to build on the work of the previous Congress by moving quickly on the group of 24 bills, which had already been thoroughly reviewed by the committee.

"Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Ed Markey worked together to make sure that bills from both sides of the aisle would be reported out of the Committee today, so they can be brought to the floor for a House vote—ideally in the next few weeks.

"I am most appreciative to both leaders, as well as to Chairman John Fleming of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Areas and Chairman Rob Bishop of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation Subcommittee, which subcommittees had jurisdiction over my two bills."

Sablan is Ranking Member on the FWOIA Subcommittee and a member of the Public Land Subcommittee.

Sablan's legislation conveying the submerged lands has twice passed the House unanimously, but both times stalled in the Senate. Sablan has kept working to get Senate approval, however. Earlier this year he asked the new chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), and his Republican counterpart, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, to introduce a Senate companion to Sablan's House bill. The Wyden/Murkowski legislation, S. 256, is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining on Thursday in Washington.

"I think the new Senate Committee chairman shares the view of Chairman Hastings that there are a number of bills—my own included—that we have thoroughly reviewed before and that we should take advantage of the work we have already been done and get these bills moving.

"I have been frustrated to see my bills get hung up in the legislative machinery. And I am not the only member of Congress is this situation. Many of us have noncontroversial, locally focused bills that need to be cleared off the agenda, so we can go on to other matters."

The submerged lands issue arose when the Ninth Circuit Court ruled that the federal government owned all the near-shore waters around each of the Northern Mariana Islands. That was in February 2005. Within months Republican Rep. Jeff Flake of Arizona—now one of his state's two senators—introduced a bill conveying the submerged lands to the Northern Marianas, as did Republican Sen. Pete Domenici of New Mexico. When Sablan was elected to the House of Representatives in 2009 he took up the cause.

The Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act has also passed the House twice, by voice vote in the 111th Congress and then by a recorded vote of 278-100 in the 112th. Sablan's bill, H.R. 674, follows up on a preliminary study of Rota by the National Park Service in 2005 requested by former Rota senator Diego Songao. That study determined that the island preserves unique habitat for endangered species, as well as numerous, intact prehistoric sites, all of which are of "national significance."

Because of Songao's initiative and with the continuing advocacy of Rep. Teresita Santos and other Rota leaders, Sablan is now seeking a "suitability and feasibility" study, the next step toward designation of areas on Rota as part of the National Park System. ***(Office of the Delegate)***

Community invited to NMC's Charter Day celebration on Friday

To celebrate more than 30 years of enriching lives through higher education, the Northern Marianas College is inviting the CNMI community to its biggest celebration of the year, Charter Day, on May 3, 2013.

"We're inviting everyone to join us again in As Terlaje for our annual Charter Day celebration," said Charter Day Planning Committee chair Queanna Sablan. "We'll be showcasing various programs, celebrating employee and student achievement, and of course, featuring great entertainment."

The festivities will kick off at 4pm and will continue until 10pm. During the early part of the celebration, the college will be handing out its annual PROA Awards, which include Student of the Year, Staff of the Year, Instructional Faculty of the Year, Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, and Alumnus of the Year.

The evening portion of the event will feature the various entertainment and competitions, including the Marianas Idol singing contest, Battle of the Bands, Clash of the Crews dance competition, and the HiLux Truck & Sport Compact Car Show. Delicious food, drinks, and games will also be offered for sale by numerous vendors.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), game booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is today, April 30, 2013 by 4pm. Booth space is limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

The booth fee is $150 with $25 of the fee refunded to the vendors upon clean up of booth space post-event and passage of inspection from Charter Day officials. For NMC clubs and nonprofit organizations, booth fees are $75 and also include a $25 refund upon booth space clean-up and passage of inspection.

For more information, contact Sablan at 234-5498 Ext. 1251/1253 or email queannas@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES NMC
Representatives of the Tourism College of Huaqiao University recently met with Northern Marianas College leaders to explore possible partnership initiatives. The Tourism College of Huaquiao University is one of the top 10 tourism colleges in China. From left, Jin Chi, Huaqiao university executive dean; Frankie Eliptico, acting NMC president; Ed Arriola Jr., Asia Pacific Hotels Marketing Manager, Huang Yuanshui, Huaqiao University professor/dean; Ni Deleon Guerrero, NMC International Student counselor; Bobbie Merfalen, NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services; Zou Bingxin, Huaqiao University program officer, Chavelle Green, NMC Business Department chairperson; and Connie Hui, Luen Thai international director.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Ready for takeoff

Boeing's 787 Dreamliner was cleared to fly last Thursday. The Federal Aviation Administration lifted a ban on passenger flights that it imposed in January after two battery malfunctions in the new jets raised serious safety concerns. The FAA approved Boeing's plan to modify the 787 battery system and flights are expected to resume within days.

So, the FAA says the Dreamliner is safe. But will travelers buy that? We think so. Here's why.

The innovative, fuel-efficient Dreamliner ran into trouble because it is the first passenger jet to make extensive use of lithium-ion batteries. Those batteries, widely used in laptops and cellphones, have a history of occasionally overheating. When Boeing designed the aircraft, the company and its suppliers devised a series of tests to ensure the battery system would be safe for flight. The tests, done under the oversight of the FAA, suggested the planes could go for millions of hours without encountering any battery problem.

In practice, however, problems occurred not long after the Dreamliner entered service. An empty plane parked on a runway in Boston filled with smoke. A plane full of passengers in Japan had to be evacuated.

So it was back to the drawing board. Boeing, its suppliers, federal regulators and their global counterparts developed new tests to figure out what caused the batteries to fail. Boeing hired battery experts from outside the aviation industry to evaluate the testing procedures and propose solutions.

The exact cause of the battery failures never was identified. When complex systems fail, it can be difficult to pinpoint a simple reason. Boeing, though, developed a way to protect the passengers and the planes.

The company redesigned the battery system so if one cell short-circuited, others would not. Short circuits are the most likely reason that an undamaged battery would overheat. Boeing also added high-grade insulation between cells so overheating in one part of the battery would not spread to other parts.

Perhaps most important from the passenger standpoint, Boeing encased the battery system in a sealed steel enclosure, vented outside the aircraft. So even if a battery failure occurred, the aircraft wouldn't be damaged. Smoke or fire would not spread.

As part of the testing, according to news reports, Boeing went so far as to simulate explosions inside the steel case. The enclosure is so secure that passengers would not notice if a failure occurred. The aircraft doesn't rely on the batteries to stay in the air.

The credibility of Boeing, the FAA and the airlines that fly the Dreamliner is on the line. A battery problem that damaged a plane or created a safety threat would be a huge blow to the airline industry. There's a big incentive to get this right.

The airlines have shown confidence. Despite the grounding of the fleet and the delays in deliveries, airlines did not cancel the hundreds of orders they placed for the Dreamliner.

Who's left to convince? The people who fill the seats.

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I WAS ANGRY AT THE UNITED STATES...
BECAUSE YOU HAVE KILLED INNOCENT MUSLIMS.
AND THAT'S AL-QAIDA'S JOB.
Judge ©2013 KAN/KSK/HERSTAR / judge@kstar.com
www.kstar.com

Gongli

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

I use "encounter" as a metaphor for learning in my Oral English class, and since we decided that learning *about* Oral English will only involve students memorizing more terms and categories, we decided to make it our job to get the students to open their mouths and use the 4,000-some words they already have in their mental database. Students are facilitated, cajoled, prodded, enticed to "encounter" themselves, their classmates, their teacher, and others who they met physically or in their imagination.

One of my fellow teachers asked at a teachers' meeting: "You want us to get the students talking, Jaime, but what would they talk about?" So, what better subject than what they already know without reading a book: themselves. One of their tasks during the 16-week term is to get up and introduce themselves.

When I introduce myself as a teacher, I read from a format that I then pass out later, along with a template where they can write their own introduction. In a section where the template asks for "people one admire," I list a few guys from Socrates to Mandela, and several personae in between, ending with the film director Zhang Yimou, and Shengyang-born movie star Gongli.

Gongli, in recent memory, starred as Hatsumomo in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha.* She made the international scene in 1990 when the first post-1949 Chinese movie *Raise the Red Lantern* was nominated for an Academy Award. Her acclaimed performances in *Ju Dou* and the *Story of Qiu Ju* also got her in hot water with the local censors. Her personal life and movie roles were not the ideal preferences of the government celluloid snipers!

All the persons on the front end of my "admire" list happen to be male, given our *Pinoy* machismo, so to find Gongli at the end of the list gets a fair reception from my Chinese students.

We've recently been jolted into our finitude by a quake this week, centered in Inner Mongolia, just when we were watching the devastations from tectonic shakes from Iraq to Iran, Pakistan to India, and Bangladesh to the Lushun County in Sichuan, this last having barely recovered from the tragic quake in the region in 2008.

So, in our current state of rattledness, for Gongli to show up in our class in all her statuesque grandeur is a mindblower of stellar proportions. A Singapore citizen since the turn of the millennium, after she married a tobacco tycoon in 1996 to lose her red Zhongguo patches, and divorced in 2010, Gongli is known to be one of cinemadom's highest paid celebrity. She's a matured vintage of Shandong wine, from her days as a strapping vine in the '70s to be today's *bi jou* of delicate aroma and intoxicating flavor.

You might say we are enamored.

One of my students, a relation, allegedly sent her a copy of my introduction template, and noting her prominent position on my list, she evidently decided to surprise us with a quick visit. Stunned, we were equally unprepared for the invitation to join her to dinner at the old downtown Liaoning Friendship Hotel during one of the three-day May 1st holiday, just across the square where the helmsman's statue thrusts his familiar pose yonder.

We, of course, had a quiet dinner, the china being genuine china, with the soup served just right by uniformed servers, and the only thing piping hot was the chili-laden dish form Sichuan that left me gasping for the balm of soothing jasmine tea.

Simple with her pearls in a modest neckline, we regularly pinched our self so as not to stare too hard at the enchanting movie star. The 15-course dinner (nine would have been ordinary, 21 extravagant, so 15 was modestly right) moved slowly on a lazy Susan, and the dinner would have bloated us quickly save that our skill with the chopsticks need more practice, and besides, our appetite was elsewhere than on the viand.

Trained by the British, the establishment retired us to the old smoking room where brandy-laced coffee was served with coco-choco cake. Members of our coterie managed to get called away for something—a phone call, and Gongli's boyfriend, to smoothen details of a contract with an agent, so I found my lonesome alone with our heartthrob.

Reduced to being an unusually shy *lao ye* (grandpa), Gongli was kind enough to converse with us for what seemed to be an hour in her newly acquired English extemporaneity, with a rather un-Chinese forwardness to hold our hands while she talked up close and personal, exchanging warmth of breath when only silence could suffice.

It was then that we heard the banging at the door. Our next door Korean neighbor tried to ensure we were secure as the uncharacteristic 20-second tremor at 5.1 on the Richter scale swayed our building, whispering intimations of our mortality.

I had just been daydreaming of Gongli after discovering that she was born in Shenyang. The quake brought us back to reality, but the fiction of ever running into Gongli was just as engaging as the fact that she might actually return to the city of her birth, and wonder of wonders, wander into our wonderlust!

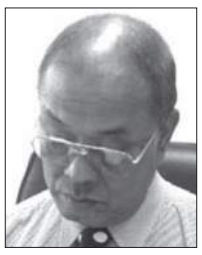
"Encounter" as a metaphor for learning is a tool for enriched awareness. We met our self coming and going on this one, as visions of the sugar plum fairy danced in our head.

About the quake? That's another reflection.

Fina'gue gi famaguonta

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Hu hoka 'nos kuantos granun talisai. 'Nai mattuyu' gi gima, hu tutuhon fumusu' mientras sigeyu' kumonbetsasion yan un' ñietun diñga.

Tiha tuñgu' hafa talisai, ni tampoku na mamakanu'. Huna'e 'nos kuantos pidasu para u chage. Ha ñañgon-yu' na mañge' ya mangau mas para u kanu'.

Hu fanu'e haf" ates, laguana, manha, lalañgita, lagatapea, abas, bilimbines, mañga yan otru siha gulusina. Ilegña nu guahu, "Grandpa, mañge'ña apples, pears, orange tenda, Chiquita banana yan ubas ke frutan tano'ta".

Ha manifesta haf" mana' payoña gi gulusina siha ni ti man-matatanom guine. Lau dididi' uma'achule' yan primet leksion tinaitai gi finu' Iñglis: Dick, Jane, Sally yan Spot. Aktibidat i tres mañe'lu chagu' yan haf" ta chochogue entalu' i gima', kanton yan halom tasi yan lanchun familia. Estague' na patte i muna' bulachon ñaihon-yu' antes.

Man-hugagandu kumu familia, sigeyu' muñgayu gi halom anbutdosa na plaset. Ni ti hutuñgu haf" mansana 'sino ubas. De dios mihu!

Dispues hu faisen para u chule' i hagasas niyog ya u pega gi fihon kahun basula. Hu fanu'e haf" hagasas; chumaleg ya ha batsala gi sagaña.

Pinat finu' Iñglis i patgon diariu. Lau kada umasoda' ham puru finu' Chamorro pot para bai' pula' ya u tutuhon usun hila'ña mismu.

Adumidide' ha tutuhon kumomprende konbetsasion Chamorro ginen man-amko' gi oriyaña. 'An ha huñgog palabra ni ti ha komprende siempre ha faisenyu' dispues. Huna' chage kelaguen tiao. Yaña sa' huna' pika ya makalañgkane sensin ma'sun ya mana' gama gi halom lemon kanu'un. Sige dispues ha ketuñgu' haf" ayu na klasen guihan yan sa' hafa na huna'ye ma'sun. Taya' kampu para esplikasion piot sa' ñalañgyu' lokue'.

Hu tuñgu' na un' dia u faliñgu i finu' Chamorro piot sa' ti liñguahen makonduktan bisnis gi maseha manu gi tanu'. Lau haf" mas fitme ke tatuñgu' usun i solu sasyan ni muna' likidu i Chamorro?

Mitate yan lusuñg

Hu li'e mañainahu ma-usa mitate gi maguleg ginigan freksu na mai'es. I fininun ginileg gaige gi usun mai'es. I sumen finu para titiyas, i la bastus para atmayas. Gi katkuet fresku na finatinas kinisechan freskun mai'es, paire!

Hasan na tiempu hu li'e este i antigosu na trastes kusinan mañainata. Kulan tinilaika ni "blender" para umana' finu mai'es 'sino otru siha sentadan natibu. Dispues maliñgu usun has komat 'nai mana' lalagu i titiyas.

I lusuñg dañkulu ma-u'usa para malomug a'guon tininun lemai 'sino sinetnan sune. I ladikiki' para lomug amot natibu. Man-suette i mangai kosas nu este antigosu na trastes ni sumen apenas na tiempu. Ni usun kommat esta kase apenas.

Guaha 'nai in'li'e lagua' fanihe? Estague' na trastes ma'u'usa antes gi hilu' troñku para umakone' fanihe. Lau tatnai hu li'e este na traba fuera ke ginen un' tiuhu ni muna' setbe antes.

'Sino, guaha 'nai in'li'e mapastu i lagua' gi oriyan mattiñgan?

Mahalañg sentada-ta

Mas ke trentai siñku años sumaga i amiguhu sanlagu. Un' dia gi halom San Francisco, sumugu' gi fina' metkau 'nai ha li'e hitiñg mabebende. Mamahan 'nos kuantos. 'Nai mattu gi gima' ha tunu ya hafatinase paire na finadeni yan maipen hinegsa'.

Ginacha' kulan ume'emahalañg i prohimu 'nai ha disidi chumochu ni hagas sentadan tano'ta. Siña tasoda' sentadan natibu gi dinaña man-tautau-ta entalu' California, Texas, Idaho yan Washington. Mas ke kinse mit na tautau isla siha ginen Pasifiku mandaña gi fina' selebrasion natibu.

Gi un' dinaña hu li'e un' parentela ritirau gi militat ni umatrebegue' mama' pale' totut. Ha usa lavalava (sikato') ya sige mama' pale' antigu (chant). Sigeyu' chumaleg tuyan 'nai hu li'e este masusede gi halom mañeluta ni hagas man-matupa ginen kutturan niha.

Gi mismu tiempu este i sagon manala'la' kuttura mauleg na pinetsige sa' umanog sinsiyu na sentimentu gi haf" tinatten niha. Ti manlistu umaksepta haf" fuetsau man-malulog niha ni sumen chagu' yan kutturan tanu'.

Maseha man-gaige gi fina' taduñg na halom tanu', siempre umasoda' tatte haf" kutturan yan tradision niha. Megai siempre dumiseha ma-abiban tradision sa' estague' na pisu mina' difirensiau Chamorro yan otru rasan tautau.

Kustumbren dinaña', sinsiyu na ayudu gi chatsaga yan manna'mase', makat mapla' este gi korason tautau-ta siha. Fitme masimientu kutturan yan tradision tanu'.

Gi kareran pa'gu na siglu, i manma-eduka na famaguonta u tutuhon inadiñgan haf" sustansian natibu gi halom mesklan enteru elmundu. Estague' na pisu 'nai umafañagu manana'lon dignun Chamorro ni mayotten ñaihon ni nasion siha ni manhalom guine deste kiñientos años antes.

Lau este solu fitme na pisu para ta ta'lon ruminueba i hagas fitme na haligen yan pisun tradision tautau-ta siha. Atetuye sa' dinanche in' petsisige pa'gu.

Cameras in the classrooms? Sure!

By LANE FILLER
Newsday

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday *editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.*

Finally, somebody is touting reality television that I would willingly watch, and it could be bigger than "Swamp Kardashians" or "Mirandizing with the Stars." Call it "Cameras in the Classrooms."

The idea of putting cameras in every public school classroom in the United States is reportedly going to get a big boost when Bill Gates proposes it in an education special airing May 7 on PBS. The Gates Foundation has been quietly floating the idea since 2011.

And I have some good news for Gates.

Although supporters of cameras in classrooms have come up with a price of $5 billion, I say they're wrong. I think we've finally found a way to turn schools into profit centers.

Virtually every parent I know would gladly pay $10.95 per month to see what's going on in his or her kid's classes, for reasons far beyond wondering how pithily her teachers explain the Pythagorean theorem. We are fascinated by the lives of our children, and mostly face information blackouts.

For all I know, my 11-year-old daughter spends her time outside the house running an organized crime family. I recently asked what she does at lunch and she said, "I sit with my people, at our table, taking care of business." I'm not saying she's definitely running numbers and loaning out money, I'm just saying I have no idea what happens in her life on weekdays from 8am until 3pm and she always has more cash than me.

If the schools would throw in a "Playground Cam" and a "Cafeteria Cam," they could name their own price. The biggest problem would be in families with multiple offspring:

Dad: "Turn the channel back to Jenny. I think that senior is trying to smooch her."

Mom: "Are you crazy? Timmy is about to get in a shoving match with a guy the size of Shrek. Besides, I've seen this Jenny episode before. She turns her head and all he gets is cheek."

So the fact that the cameras would cost $5 billion isn't a bar to the plan. But I do sometimes wonder if the whole "what's wrong with our failing schools" mantra isn't out of hand.

In *The New York Times* last week, William Reese, a professor of educational policy studies and history at the University of Wisconsin, wrote an enlightening piece about the birth of educational standards and standardized testing in Boston, about 160 years ago. The problems were the same then: low scores on the new tests, students seemingly woefully ignorant, and huge achievement gaps between rich and poor, black and white. The response: Blame the teachers.

We think of schools as factories, and we demand they turn out well-educated students. When they don't, we tend to blame the teachers, but we don't talk about what teachers have to work with. A linen factory forced to use rough cotton can't make comfy sheets. A knife factory sent shoddy steel can't make great blades.

And schools sent students with a tiny vocabulary, no self-discipline, poor nutrition, terrible sleep habits, unstable home lives, and emotional, behavioral and developmental problems can't, generally, produce great scholars.

We love to believe great teachers make great schools, and there's some truth to that. But there's a lot more truth to this: Great students make great schools, and a lot of what goes into being a great student has little to do with teachers.

I believe we need to evaluate teachers with measurable results and observation. I have no problem with putting cameras in classrooms. But if you want to find out what's causing bad educational outcomes, particularly in the poor communities and schools we're having the least success with, put the cameras in these kids' homes, and on the streets they walk. That's where most of the problem is. And that's the reality show no one wants to look at.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Special and unique' positions

According to newspaper reports, it seems Public Law 17-80 caused havoc for both the Office of Personnel Management and Civil Service Commission concerning some positions these offices consider "special and unique." To the extent that the legal counsel of the Civil Service Commission agrees that hiring some employees holding positions known as "special and unique" is in violation of the law, this drives one to view the scenario as in itself also unusual and special. Why is this just now being raised as an issue, and does it really matter that P.L. 17-80 significantly changed the hiring and employment policies and practices of the CNMI government? On the other hand, would it make any difference that S.B. 18-18 is being sought out as the cure to restore the "special and unique" hiring practices and policies that was allegedly removed by P.L. 17-80?

If the hiring of these employees in "special and unique" positions are now unlawful and in violation of implementing regulations and the affecting statutes, this is still wrongly legal, even assuming that a cure is forthcoming. S.B. 18-18 would only restore the status quo of the pre-P.L. 17-80, and in effect would not effectively settle the core problems concerning position classification and the merit systems in employment practices of OPM and CSC in general, and the entire CNMI government in particular. Even if S.B. 18-18 would specify the titles of the "special and unique" positions, this would not satisfy the establishment and creation of these positions as a category of positions in the CNMI Position Classification System. By law, OPM is responsible for the establishment and creation of positions in the Classification Plan, and approved by the CSC. Positions procured by the CNMI government are only those positions that are properly established and approved by the CSC. These positions include those already established in the Classification Plan.

The position classification system assigns positions not covered by the system as positions not subject to the jurisdiction of the OPM and CSC. Hence, the designation of graded and ungraded positions, or classified and unclassified positions, is the position management policy that assures compliance with the appropriation of public funds for positions used by the CNMI government.

A position is lawful and established in the classification plan if OPM and CSC in fact follow the procedures under their own regulations for the establishment and creation of positions. There is no way in which OPM would establish and create a position without the proper "job analysis." This is a legal requirement, and if OPM and CSC are not fully following this legal requirement, then in effect these offices are putting the CNMI in violation of its own rules and regulations as well as the statute that established the OPM and CSC, but more importantly Title VII of the Civil Rights Act relating to employment practices. With respect to the salary assignment of positions in the so-called "special and unique" positions, this also would require the implementation of the procedure on "job evaluation" as the basic step to ensure that what the CNMI government appropriates for established positions is properly measured and valued in the same way that it requires the procurement office to procure the best and least cost material for items in the "all others" of the budget.

OPM's and CSC's handling of "job analysis" and "job evaluation" should be part of their normal responsibilities, in the same way that professionals in the accounting field would be well versed in "debits" and "credits" and all generally accepted accounting principles and practices. If OPM is not engaging in the application of the science of public sector human resource management practices, then as citizens of the CNMI, we have every reason to suspect that the CNMI government is not receiving the just and fair return of money it is spending to carry out its mission and public services. Frankly, it is questionable whether the classification plan and the compensation schedule of positions under OPM jurisdiction were the result of actual and competent "job analysis" and "job evaluation" when their enabling legislation became law. If not, the CNMI government may be paying for positions that are overpriced, out-of-order with the labor market comparable to the CNMI, and unjustified using the logic of the science of position management practice by public sector organizations. Unfortunate but true, there is more to ascertain under the radar than what is obvious on the surface regarding pay and positions in the CNMI government.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°

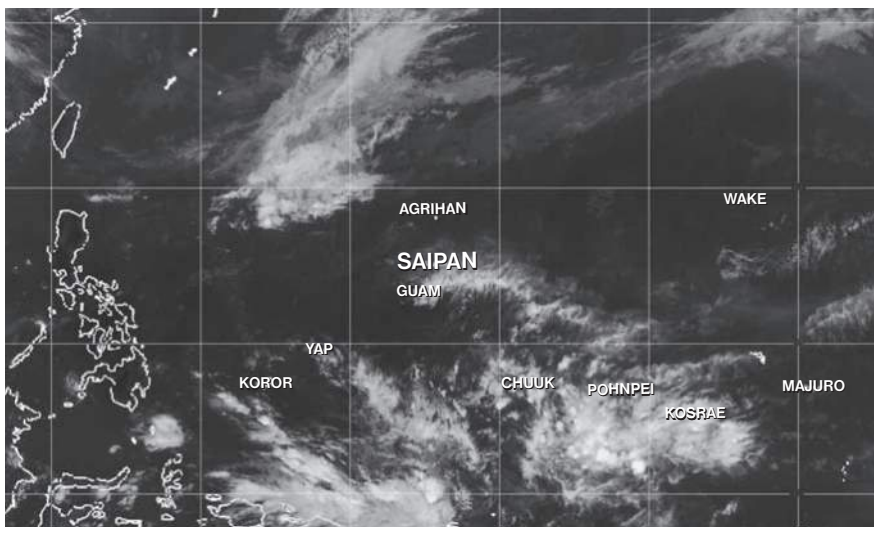
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲89	▼82
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼60
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼51
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78	▼72
Honolulu	Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲58	▼40
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼58
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼83
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲62	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼73
New York	Showers	▲58	▼48
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼47
Paris	Showers	▲60	▼52
Pusan	Windy	▲58	▼49
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲62	▼37
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼59
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼57

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 29 , 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N159E to 22N152E then continues as a shear line to 20N142E. Low clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary including Minami Torishima. Converging low-level winds west of the shear line combined with an upper-level trough stretching southward from Japan are generating extensive cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of the Marianas between 25N and 17N from 132E to 142E. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 4N130E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 2N148E to end near Chuuk at 7N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Koror and Yap within 70 miles of a line from 7N132E to EQ139E farther east. Scattered showers are occurring well south of Guam between 5N and the equator from 143E to 148E. Similar weather is located over Chuuk between 10N and 5N from 149E to 154E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Pohnpei but over Kosrae within 170 miles of a line from 4N154E to 4N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:11 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:07 PM	9:52 AM
Wednesday	11:59 PM	10:53 AM
Thursday		11:52 AM
Friday	12:48 AM	12:49 PM
Saturday	1:34 AM	1:43 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

DYS-SHRM program graduates food service job seekers

A new group of job seekers have completed the Society for Human Resource Management's "Workforce Readiness Initiative" this past April 19 in preparation for entering the CNMI job market.

These graduates comprise the first group of trainees completing the Initiative's program in partnership with the CNMI Division of Youth Services, receiving a week of job preparation and food service/wait staff skills to provide them assistance in finding employment in the CNMI's hotel and restaurant industry.

This group of job seekers, referred by the Division of Youth Services, the CNMI Department of Labor, and the Workforce Investment Agency received direct food service and wait staff training, in addition to job search skill training during the week of April 15 to 19. The course also included the food handler class from the Division of Environmental Health and the attainment of their food handlers certification.

"There are advertisements in the newspapers almost every day for waiters, waitresses, and food service workers. We also work with the hotels to help them fill their continuing needs for new and replacement staff. The SHRM Initiative program has been very successful in helping our students get a start in those job focuses. It prepares them for the job search and has also provided them with basic work skills training," said Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM. "This was a good group of applicants. They were interested and enthusiastic, showed up on time, and participated well. They received good solid training from knowledgeable and experienced instructors from the business community. They will all do well in hospitality and food service jobs."

The first DYS/SHRM Initiative program participants were Jason Aia, Nina Braganza, Linda Dowai, Jennifer Kaipat, Kimberly Kapileo, Anthony Leon Guerrero, Rebecca Lisua, Juanita Nekaifes, Marlita Ogo, Teresita Pangelinan, Angelein Rios, Nieves Romolor, Jerry Sammy, Jackleen Satur, and Evelyn Singa.

The wait staff program included job preparation classes on job applications and résumés, job interviews, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided on customer service, three classes of basic restaurant services that included both food and beverage services, general culinary, and the food handler's certification class.

Gibson said the students especially benefited from the professional skills and the interest of the instructors: SHRM members Jim Arenovsky from Delta Management, Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings, and Josephine Mesta and Denise Montenegro from the Hyatt Regency Saipan; chef Blake Carothers from the Hyatt Regency, who worked with the participants to prepare them for employment; and Melil Ngirausui from the Bureau of Environmental Health for the food handler certification training.

"I appreciate the business community's, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s, and SHRM's continued assistance," said Gibson.

SHRM's partnership with DYS in its Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to CNMI SHRM by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the CNMI Division of Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs in support of the 2013 Leadership and Economic Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency Program. This Initiative to benefit the community will hold an additional three training programs through the DYS grant this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DYS/SHRM Group 1 completed training on April 19.

SHRM's role in administering this grant through its Workforce Readiness Initiative is to facilitate the employment of U.S. qualified workers through job preparation and skills training, helping them to become better qualified to enter the CNMI job market. The Initiative consists of a series of one-week pre-placement training programs with a combination of general employee enhancement and job specific skills in employment areas where SHRM-member companies and other community businesses have indicated a need for replacement or additional staff.

SHRM seeks the help of the business community to make this program a success and asks that businesses notify the Workforce Readiness Initiative of types of staff that they might need, so that the Initiative can arrange training programs to help fill these needs. SHRM also asks community businesses to work with the Initiative to place the people trained by the various programs into their organizations. In turn, the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative will be working with the DYS, WIA, and the Department of Labor to obtain suitable candidates that can receive WIA support to help with salary costs.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative and the DYS LEOSS program are for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Sign-up for these Initiative programs will be through DYS. Interested qualified individuals should contact Vivian Sablan at DYS at 664-2559 or 664-2551. If not already registered, job-seekers should register with both WIA and the DOL Employment Services. Interested individuals can also contact Gibson by e-mail at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

Although the Initiative does not guarantee a job for every participant, it will make every effort to get each graduate employed. More than 50 percent of the participants in the earlier Initiative programs with the Department of Commerce have been placed. Companies interested in considering Initiative graduates can also contact Gibson at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

The CNMI SHRM Initiative is managed by HR Support, CNMI, a CNMI-licensed Human Resource Management consulting and training company. ***(PR)***

NMC

JUDICIAL OUTREACH

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, standing, and U.S. District Judge Ramona Manglona, seated right, recently spoke to Northern Marianas College students about a variety of topics, including judicial procedures, human trafficking, and gender equality. The presentation was made to members of NMC's Current Issues class taught by instructor Eileen Babauta. Other students from other classes also participated.

Water outage in Koblerville on Thursday

A nine-hour water outage has been scheduled for Koblerville, Tottoville and Afetna on Thursday, May 2, 2013, from 8am to 5pm, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc. to remove eight existing non-working fire hydrants along Adobu Dr., Alaguan St., Ilotes Way, and Eskabeche Ave. This project is part of the Koblerville Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environment Protection Agency. The water outage will affect residents living in the Koblerville, Tottoville and Afetna area.

CUC's operations team and AIC Marianas will be working hard to return service to customers in these affected areas as soon as possible. Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. Direct inquiries to project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025-30 Ext. 324. ***(CUC)***

Traffic diversions for water projects

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that a water system improvement project is now underway in the Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Road and Chalan Msgr. Martinez (As Lito Rd.) intersection and along Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road (Airport Road by Torres Refrigeration).

CUC encourages the public to plan ahead in their travels or take alternative routes as the contractor's (GPPC Inc.) crew works to install the new waterlines on the road way. One lane closures are expected in these areas from 8:30am to 5:30pm. For further questions or concerns call CUC's 24-Hour Call Center at (670) 664-4282. ***(CUC)***

$79.3K USDA grant gets DPS two brand new vehicles

HILO, Hawaii—USDA Rural Development was on hand to witness the unveiling of two brand new, police vehicles that were purchased by the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The procurement of the new vehicles was made possible by the awarding of $79,276 in competitive grant funds that are available to the CNMI for rural economic and community development.

"Rural communities and first responders face unique challenges when dealing with public safety," according to Hawaii State Director for USDA Rural Development Chris Kanazawa. "The purchase of much needed police vehicles utilizing grant funds will not only provide rural residents of the CNMI with an improved sense of safety, but it will also assist with the Obama administration's efforts to enhance our nation's first responder capabilities."

According to Joe Diego, area director, "Few things are more important to a community than a sense of well-being and safety. These first responders have our backs and the vehicles will help to protect the citizens of the CNMI for generations to come."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, left, hands over the keys for a new police vehicle to Department of Public Safety Commissioner James DeLeon Guerrero.

The funding comes from USDA Rural Development's community facilities program, which funds essential buildings, equipment, and vehicles in rural areas. Other examples of community facilities projects include hospitals, nursing homes, day cares, fire halls, emergency response vehicles, city halls, utility vehicles, storm warning systems, and police radios.

USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs, and working families in rural communities.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has an active portfolio of more than $176 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Since 2009, the Obama administration has invested over $273 million in loans, grants, and guarantees for the Western Pacific. ***(USDA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Exercise participants ready their jet skis to search the reef line.

Emergency crews gather to hone water rescue skills

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Military and local emergency responders, participated in a search and rescue exercise off Sirena Beach on the north shore of Guam yesterday.

The exercise scenario commenced when a fictitious company that offered a survival at sea experience north of Pati Point called 911 when the tour vessel's engines stopped working and they were unable to retrieve eight swimmers several miles from shore.

Over 30 responders sprung into action to assist from Guam Fire Rescue, Police Department, Homeland Security, Anderson Air Force Base Fire Department, U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, and U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-25 by launching seven jet skis, three rescue boats, and a rescue helicopter. Additionally, Guam Homeland Security forward deployed their tactical communications vehicle.

"We wanted to test our search and rescue response in the northern waters of Guam where the currents are unpredictable, the high cliffs present a challenge for communications, and the remote location is a distance away from rescue assets," said Lt. J.G. Rich Russell, the Coast Guard's lead exercise coordinator. "The area also provided a prime training area for jet ski rescue operators to practice rescues near the reef and coordinate at sea triage with awaiting boats".

The Coast Guard's Rescue 21, which has been operational since last May, proved essential in communicating with responders shielded by the high northern cliffs. Operators used the communications tower in Rota to pick up marine radio frequencies on scene while Guam Homeland Security's communications vehicle served as the incident's command post. Prior to system's installation, the area between Ritidian Point and Pati Point had extremely limited radio coverage, but that is no longer the case with the Rescue 21 system.

"We already have a mature relationship with our federal and local maritime rescue partners, but exercises such as this test our ability to operate and communicate in a more challenging situation." said Capt. Casey White, Sector Guam commander. "We learned some valuable lessons, but we also demonstrated our capability and the great power of our partnerships." ***(USCG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Q3 reports out

To all parents and legal guardians of the Mighty Dolphins of Marianas High School: We will be distributing the 3rd Quarter Report Card on Thursday, May 2, 2013, from 4pm to 6pm in the MHS Gymnasium. Students will be released at 1pm on this day to allow the school time to prepare for the event. If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. ***(PR)***

Health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

- May 7 at 5:30pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning
- May 8 at 5:30pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning
- May 15 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- May 16 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED
- May 25 at 8am: Adult CPR/AED

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(ARC)***

Governor Inos on John Gonzales LIVE

John Gonzales LIVE will feature Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, from 6:30pm to 7:30 pm on MCV Channel 14. Inos will discuss his administration's plans and initiatives. The show will be replayed on May 6 and May 7, 2013, same time.

On May 15, the program will feature NMI Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas on his plans and initiatives and legal issues representing the NMI government, also from 6:30pm to 7:30 pm on MCV Channel 14. The show will be replayed on May 20 and May 21, 2013.

John Gonzales LIVE airs weekly live and rebroadcasts on Monday and Tuesday the following week. The program also rebroadcasts worldwide on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) on Tuesdays, 12pm (Chamorro Standard Time), which is Monday evenings at 7pm (Pacific Standard Time or 10pm Eastern Time). Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

SVES kindergarten registration

San Vicente Elementary School's registration for kindergarten only is scheduled on May 28-31, 2013, from 9am through 11:30am in the school main office.

The child must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2008, with a date of birth between Sept. 1, 2007, and Aug. 31, 2008. Registration requirements: copy of birth certificate; original health certificate (public health or private clinic); medical insurance or accidental insurance; map of residential location; power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applicable); copy of report card or certificate of completion (from any pre-school). For more information, contact 237-3791. ***(PR)***

Kagman High Class of '04 reunion meeting

The Kagman High School Class of 2004 will have a class reunion meeting on May 7, Tuesday, at the pavilion across JP Center Bldg., Garapan, at 6:30pm. All classmates are urged to be present and should also help pass the information to other classmates. For more information or inquiry, email ayuyu2004reunion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Raffle drawing postponed

The Sexual Assault Awareness Month raffle drawing set for April 25 has been postponed to Thursday, May 30, at 7pm and will be held at the Garapan Street Market. The raffle is an annual fundraiser for the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. All funds raised will go to the Coalition. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding and support. For more information, call 234-3878. ***(PR)***

Business

Army says no to more tanks, but Congress insists

WASHINGTON (AP)—Built to dominate the enemy in combat, the Army's hulking Abrams tank is proving equally hard to beat in a budget battle.

Lawmakers from both parties have devoted nearly half a billion dollars in taxpayer money over the past two years to build improved versions of the 70-ton Abrams.

But senior Army officials have said repeatedly, "No thanks."

It's the inverse of the federal budget world these days, in which automatic spending cuts are leaving sought-after pet programs struggling or unpaid altogether. Republicans and Democrats for years have fought so bitterly that lawmaking in Washington ground to a near-halt.

Yet in the case of the Abrams tank, there's a bipartisan push to spend an extra $436 million on a weapon the experts explicitly say is not needed.

"If we had our choice, we would use that money in a different way," Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, told The Associated Press this past week.

Why are the tank dollars still flowing? Politics.

Keeping the Abrams production line rolling protects businesses and good paying jobs in congressional districts where the tank's many suppliers are located.

If there's a home of the Abrams, it's politically important Ohio. The nation's only tank plant is in Lima. So it's no coincidence that the champions for more tanks are Rep. Jim Jordan and Sen. Rob Portman, two of Capitol's Hill most prominent deficit hawks, as well as Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown. They said their support is rooted in protecting national security, not in pork-barrel politics.

"The one area where we are supposed to spend taxpayer money is in defense of the country," said Jordan, whose district in the northwest part of the state includes the tank plant.

The Abrams dilemma underscores the challenge that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel faces as he seeks to purge programs that the military considers unnecessary or too expensive in order to ensure there's enough money for essential operations, training and equipment.

Hagel, a former Republican senator from Nebraska, faces a daunting task in persuading members of Congress to eliminate or scale back projects favored by constituents.

Federal budgets are always peppered with money for pet projects. What sets the Abrams example apart is the certainty of the Army's position.

Sean Kennedy, director of research for the nonpartisan Citizens Against Government Waste, said Congress should listen when one of the military services says no to more equipment.

Dozens of air shows cancel without military jets

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Dozens of air shows that draw tens of thousands of people and generate millions of dollars for local economies have been cancelled this year after the military grounded its jet and demonstration teams because of automatic federal budget cuts.

For years, the biggest draws at air shows have been the military's two elite jet teams, the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force's Thunderbirds, and their intricate stunts. The armed services also have provided F-16, F-18 and F-22 fighter jets and the U.S. Army Parachute Team, known as the Golden Knights. All the teams were grounded as of April 1 to save money, and the military also dramatically curtailed its help with ground displays of various aircraft.

Those cutbacks have affected more than 200 of the approximately 300 air shows held in the United States each year, said John Cudahy, president of the International Council of Air Shows. About 60 shows have been cancelled, and he expects more cancellations as the season progresses and hope for restoration of the budget cuts fades. He predicted 15 percent to 20 percent of the shows won't return next year, even if the military begins participating again.

"The worst case is that they either cancel and go out of business, or they don't cancel and they have such poor attendance and they go out of business," he said.

Local economies also will feel the sting of the cancellations without the air shows bringing in crucial tourism dollars.

Representatives for some of the nation's biggest air shows, such as the air and water shows in Chicago and Milwaukee and the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wis., said they didn't expect a lack of active military jets to affect their events. The Chicago and Milwaukee shows are held along the shore of Lake Michigan, where large crowds are expected to gather for a free spectacle; the Oshkosh event is primarily a convention of pilots and aviation enthusiasts, with an air show attached.

But organizers of other events said they expected such a dramatic drop in attendance that they felt they had to cancel.

Thunder over the Blue Ridge in Martinsburg, W.V., an easy day trip from Baltimore and Washington, won't happen. The two-day show drew 88,000 people when the Thunderbirds performed in 2010, said Bill Walkup, one of the board members and manager of the Martinsburg airport.

Greek bill opens way for civil service layoffs

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's Parliament approved an emergency bill Sunday to pave the way for thousands of public sector layoffs and free up 8.8 billion euros ($11.5 billion) in international rescue loans.

The bill, which passed in a 168-123 vote, will allow for the first civil service layoffs in more than a century. About 2,000 civil servants will be laid off by the end of May, with another 2,000 following by the end of the year and a further 11,500 by end-2014, for a total of 15,500.

The legislation is the latest wave of Greece's draconian austerity program. It agreed this month with its bailout rescue lenders—the European Union and International Monetary Fund—to implement the measures as a condition to receive new emergency loans worth 8.8 billion euros ($11.5 billion).

The permanence of civil servant jobs has been enshrined in all constitutions since 1911, a form of protection from wholesale sacking when the government changes hands.

To get around the constitutional protection, the bill stipulates the first layoffs will take place in state agencies that will be disbanded or merged. A provision also aims to bypass, if needed, the notoriously slow and lenient disciplinary councils, which have refused to lay off even people convicted of felonies. More than 2,000 such cases are pending, nearly 600 on appeal.

The civil servants' union, ADEDY, bitterly opposed the bill's provisions and called for a protest outside Parliament. Authorities took strict security measures, such as barricading a Parliament entrance since Sunday morning and diverting traffic and shutting down a subway station two hours before the announced start of the protest. In the end, fewer than 300 people showed up.

Asia

AP

In this image taken from a video, an undated family photo provided by Patimat Suleimanova, the aunt of USA Boston bomb suspects, shows Anzor Tsarnaev left, Zubeidat Tsarnaev holding Tamerlan Tsarnaev and Anzor's brother Mukhammad Tsarnaev.

Mother of bomb suspects found deeper spirituality

BOSTON (AP)—In photos of her as a younger woman, Zubeidat Tsarnaeva wears a low-cut blouse and has her hair teased like a 1980s rock star. After she arrived in the U.S. from Russia in 2002, she went to beauty school and did facials at a suburban day spa.

But in recent years, people noticed a change. She began wearing a hijab and cited conspiracy theories about 9/11 being a plot against Muslims.

Now known as the angry and grieving mother of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects, Tsarnaeva is drawing increased attention after federal officials say Russian authorities intercepted her phone calls, including one in which she vaguely discussed jihad with her elder son. In another, she was recorded talking to someone in southern Russia who is under FBI investigation in an unrelated case, U.S. officials said.

Tsarnaeva insists there is no mystery. She's no terrorist, just someone who found a deeper spirituality. She insists her sons—Tamerlan, who was killed in a gunfight with police, and Dzhokhar, who was wounded and captured—are innocent.

"It's all lies and hypocrisy," she told The Associated Press in Dagestan. "I'm sick and tired of all this nonsense that they make up about me and my children. People know me as a regular person, and I've never been mixed up in any criminal intentions, especially any linked to terrorism."

Amid the scrutiny, Tsarnaeva and her ex-husband, Anzor Tsarnaev, say they have put off the idea of any trip to the U.S. to reclaim their elder son's body or try to visit Dzhokhar in jail. Tsarnaev told the AP on Sunday he was too ill to travel to the U.S. Tsarnaeva faces a 2012 shoplifting charge in a Boston suburb, though it was unclear whether that was a deterrent.

At a news conference in Dagestan with Anzor last week, Tsarnaeva appeared overwhelmed with grief one moment, defiant the next. "They already are talking about that we are terrorists, I am terrorist," she said. "They already want me, him and all of us to look (like) terrorists."

Some are overlooked in US immigration overhaul

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Carlos Gonzalez has lived nearly all his 29 years in a country he considers home but now finds himself on the wrong side of the border—and the wrong side of a proposed overhaul of the U.S. immigration system that would grant legal status to millions of people.

Gonzalez was deported to Tijuana, Mexico, from Santa Barbara in December, one of nearly 2 million removals from the United States since Barack Obama was first elected president.

"I have nobody here," said Gonzalez, who serves breakfasts in a Tijuana migrant shelter while nursing a foot that fractured in 10 places when he jumped the border fence in a failed attempt to rejoin his mother, two brothers and extended family in California. "The United States is all I know."

While a Senate bill introduced earlier this month would bring many of the estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. illegally out of the shadows, not everyone would benefit. They include anyone who arrived after Dec. 31, 2011, those with gay partners legally in the U.S., siblings of U.S. citizens and many deportees such as Gonzalez.

With net immigration from Mexico near zero, the number who came to the U.S. since January 2012 is believed to be relatively small, possibly a few hundred thousand. They include Isaac Jimenez, 45, who paid a smuggler $4,800 to guide him across the California desert in August to reunite with his wife and children in Fresno.

"My children are here, everything is here for me," Jimenez said from Fresno. He lived in the U.S. illegally since 1998 and returned voluntarily to southern Mexico last year to see his mother before she died.

A new front for gun background checks: the ballot

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—After struggling to sway both state and federal lawmakers, proponents of expanding background checks for gun sales are now exploring whether they will have more success by taking the issue directly to voters.

While advocates generally prefer that new gun laws be passed through the legislative process, especially at the national level, they are also concerned about how much sway the National Rifle Association has with lawmakers.

Washington Rep. Jamie Pedersen, a Democrat who had sponsored unsuccessful legislation on background checks at the state level, said a winning ballot initiative would make a statement with broad implications.

"It's more powerful if the voters do it—as opposed to our doing it," Pedersen said. "And it would make it easier for the Legislature to do even more."

On Monday, proponents of universal background checks in Washington will announce their plan to launch a statewide initiative campaign that would require the collection of some 300,000 signatures, according to a person involved in the initiative planning who spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to pre-empt the official announcement.

Asia

No more survivors likely in Bangladesh tragedy

SAVAR, Bangladesh (AP)—Rescue workers in Bangladesh have given up hopes of finding any more survivors in the rubble of a building that collapsed five days ago, and began using heavy machinery to remove the rubble and look for bodies, an official said Monday.

At least 380 people were killed when the illegally-constructed, 8-story Rana Plaza collapsed in a heap on Wednesday morning along with thousands of workers in the five garment factories in the building. About 2,500 survivors have been accounted for. The building owner, Mohammed Sohel Rana, was arrested Sunday in the western border town of Benapole while he was trying to flee to India.

The collapse was the deadliest disaster to hit the garment industry in Bangladesh that is worth $20 billion annually, supplies global retailers and is a mainstay of the economy.

Volunteers, army personnel and firemen have worked around the clock since Wednesday, mostly using hands and light equipment to pull out survivors. Around midnight Sunday, authorities deployed hydraulic cranes and heavy cutting machines to break up the massive slabs of concrete into manageable segments that could be lifted away.

"We are proceeding cautiously. If there is still a soul alive, we will try to rescue that person," said army spokesman Shahinul Islam.

"There is little hope of finding anyone alive. Our men went inside and saw some dead bodies in the ground floor. But no one was seen alive," said Brig. Gen. Ali Ahmed Khan, the chief of the fire brigade at the scene.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the site and a nearby hospital to meet with survivors on Monday, the first time since the disaster.

Hasina had ordered the arrest of building owner Rana, who is a small-time political operative from her Awami League party's youth wing. He was brought back by helicopter from the border town to the capital, Dhaka, where he is expected to be charged with negligence on Monday.

Taliban start spring Afghan offensive with bombing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban insurgents marked the start of their spring offensive on Sunday by claiming responsibility for a remote-controlled roadside bomb blast that killed three police officers.

In past years, spring has marked a significant upsurge in fighting between the Taliban and NATO forces along with their local allies. This fighting season is a key test, as the international coalition is scheduled to hand over security responsibilities to Afghan forces next year.

In Sunday's attack in Ghazni province in southern Afghanistan, a bomb exploded under police vehicles traveling to the district of Zana Khan to take part in a military operation against insurgents, Mohammad Ali Ahmadi, the province's deputy governor, told The Associated Press.

He said the blast destroyed the vehicle carrying Col. Mohammad Hussain, the deputy provincial police chief, killing him and two other officers. Ahmadi said two officers also were wounded in the insurgent operation, which he said clearly targeted Hussain.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility in an email sent to news media. He called the bombing the first attack in the Taliban spring offensive.

April already has been the deadliest month this year for attacks across the country, where Afghan security forces are increasingly taking the lead on the battlefield in the war that has lasted more than 11 years.

ASIA BRIEFS

Suicide bomber kills 4 in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani authorities say a suicide bomber targeting policemen has killed four people in the main northwestern city of Peshawar. Liaqat Ali Khan, the city's police chief, says the attack aimed at one of his partol teams on Monday also wounded over 30 people. The bomber detonated his explosives as the patrol passed by. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Suspicion is likely to fall on the Pakistani Taliban. The group has been waging a bloody insurgency against the government for years and has stepped up attacks ahead of the May 11 parliamentary election.

China says more arrested after deadly clash

BEIJING (AP)—Police have arrested more suspects in connection with a clash between authorities and assailants that left 21 dead in the western region of Xinjiang, Chinese state media reported Monday. Eight suspects already were in custody following last Tuesday's clash, which killed 15 police officers and local government officials, and six assailants. Authorities described the gang as terrorists. The death toll was the highest for a single incident in months in Xinjiang, which sees recurrent outbreaks of violence pitting members of the Turkic Muslim Uighur (pronounced WEE'-gur) group against the authorities and majority ethnic Han Chinese migrants.

Thai king recovering from mild lung inflammation

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's 85-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej is recovering from mild lung inflammation that caused a fever. The palace issued a statement saying the king had a high temperature and slight cough early Sunday. An X-ray showed mild inflammation in his lower lungs, and he was given medicine and fluid intravenously. The statement said his doctors found his temperature, blood pressure and breathing rate to be normal by afternoon. Bhumibol entered Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital in 2009 with a lung inflammation and has stayed since then except for infrequent short trips. Thailand's monarchy once had near-universal respect among Thais, but the king's fading from public life and the palace's perceived role in the nation's political battles have tarnished the institution in recent years. The monarch's health is closely followed by all Thais.

4 killed as bridge collapses in central Thailand

BANGKOK (AP)—Police say at least four people were killed when a small bridge collapsed near Thailand's ancient capital of Ayutthaya. Police Col. Jitkasem Sonkham says several motorcycle drivers and their vehicles fell into the Pasak river Sunday while they were crossing the suspension bridge in Ayutthaya province's Tha Ruea district. Authorities found four bodies under the rubble. Twelve people were injured. Jitkasem says the cement bridge was built a few years ago for pedestrians and small vehicles to cross but has not been well maintained. He says investigators believe that the bridge was not over capacity at the time the accident happened but that it was in poor condition.

World

Pattern seen in alleged chemical arms use in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—The instances in which chemical weapons are alleged to have been used in Syria were purportedly small in scale: nothing along the lines of Saddam Hussein's 1988 attack in Kurdish Iraq that killed thousands.

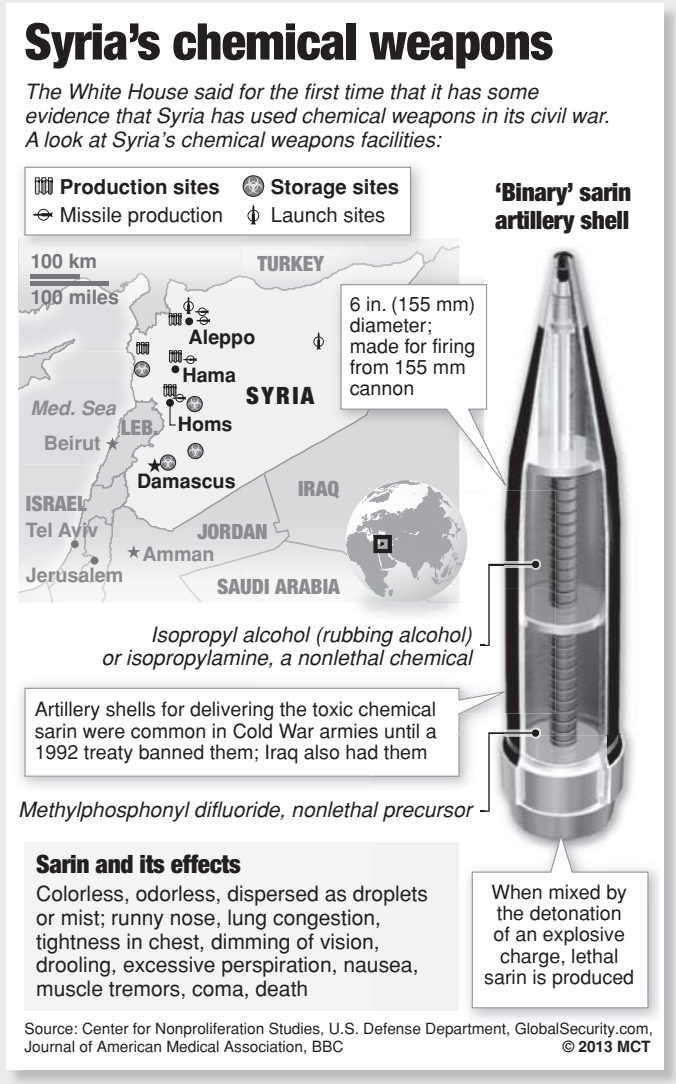
That raises the question of who would stand to gain as President Bashar Assad's regime and the opposition trade blame for the alleged attacks, and proof remains elusive.

Analysts say the answer could lie in the past—the regime has a pattern of gradually introducing a weapon to the conflict to test the international community's response.

The U.S. said last week that intelligence indicates the Syrian military has likely used sarin, a deadly nerve agent, on at least two occasions in the civil war, echoing similar assessments from Israel, France and Britain. Syria's rebels accuse the regime of firing chemical weapons on at least four occasions, while the government denies the charges and says opposition fighters have used chemical agents in a bid to frame it.

But using chemical weapons to try to force foreign intervention would be a huge gamble for the opposition, and one that could easily backfire. It would undoubtedly taint the rebellion in the eyes of the international community and seriously strain its credibility.

Mustafa Alani, an analyst at the Gulf Research Center in Geneva, said it would also be difficult for the rebels to successfully employ chemical agents.


Syria's chemical weapons
The White House said for the first time that it has some evidence that Syria has used chemical weapons in its civil war. A look at Syria's chemical weapons facilities:
Production sites
Storage sites
Missile production
Launch sites
100 km
100 miles
TURKEY
Aleppo
Hama
SYRIA
Homs
Med. Sea
LEB.
Beirut
Damascus
ISRAEL
Tel Aviv
Jerusalem
JORDAN
Amman
IRAQ
SAUDI ARABIA
'Binary' sarin artillery shell
6 in. (155 mm) diameter; made for firing from 155 mm cannon
Isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) or isopropylamine, a nonlethal chemical
Artillery shells for delivering the toxic chemical sarin were common in Cold War armies until a 1992 treaty banned them; Iraq also had them
Methylphosphonyl difluoride, nonlethal precursor
When mixed by the detonation of an explosive charge, lethal sarin is produced
Sarin and its effects
Colorless, odorless, dispersed as droplets or mist; runny nose, lung congestion, tightness in chest, dimming of vision, drooling, excessive perspiration, nausea, muscle tremors, coma, death
Source: Center for Nonproliferation Studies, U.S. Defense Department, GlobalSecurity.com, Journal of American Medical Association, BBC
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"It's very difficult to weaponize chemical weapons," he said. "It needs a special warhead, for the artillery a special fuse."

In the chaos of Syria's civil war, pinning down definitive proof on the alleged use of weapons of mass destruction is a tricky task with high stakes. President Barack Obama has said any use of chemical arms—or the transfer of stockpiles to terrorists—would cross a "red line" and carry "enormous consequences."

Already, the White House's announcement that the Syrian regime appears to have used chemical arms has ratcheted up the pressure on Obama to move forcefully. He has sought to temper expectations of a quick U.S. response, saying too little is known about the alleged attacks to take action now.

Italian policemen shot near new govt swearing-in

ROME (AP)—In the very moments Italy's new coalition government was being sworn in, ending months of political paralysis in a country hoping to revive a bleak economy, a middle-aged unemployed bricklayer opened fire Sunday in the square outside the premier's office, seriously wounding two policemen, authorities said.

The alleged gunman from Calabria, a southern region plagued by joblessness and organized crime, told investigators he wanted to shoot politicians. But finding none in the square, he instead shot at Carabinieri paramilitary police.

A bullet pierced one of the policemen in the neck, passing through his spinal column, doctors said, adding it wasn't yet known if the 50-year-old officer would have any paralysis. The other one was shot in the leg and suffered a fracture.

The newly sworn in interior minister, Angelino Alfano, said a preliminary investigation indicated the shooting, which also slightly injured a pregnant bystander, amounted to a "tragic criminal gesture of a 49-year-old unemployed" man.

But the shooting was also a violent expression of social tensions in Italy, where unemployment is soaring, an increasing number of businesses are shutting their doors permanently and new political corruption scandals make headlines nearly every day.

Politicians described the attack as a disturbing call to fix Italy's economy.

French forces leaving Malian town of Timbuktu

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Dozens of French forces have left the northern Malian town of Timbuktu several months after their military operation largely ousted radical Islamic fighters from the area, a French military official said Sunday.

The reallocation of about 100 French soldiers to the northeastern town of Gao will pose a critical test as to whether Malian soldiers and their counterparts from neighboring nations will be able to maintain security in the area still threatened by jihadists.

Soldiers from neighboring Burkina Faso officially took over last week in Timbuktu, and French soldiers are now departing, according to Col. Cyrille Zimmer.

"We are leaving a small detachment of 20 men who are going to operate with the Burkinabe battalion," he said. "This detachment is going to stay in Timbuktu while the Burkinabes are there."

France's defense minister visited Gao on Friday, where he gave reassurances that France intends to keep 1,000 soldiers in its former colony by the end of the year even as it downscales from its deployment high of about 4,000.

Focus

US hospitals send hundreds of immigrants back home

By DAVID PITT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this Thursday March 7, 2013 photo, Jacinto Rodriguez Cruz, 49, leaves his home on a wheelchair with the help of his wife, Belen Hernandez in the city of Veracruz, Mexico.

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Days after they were badly hurt in a car accident, Jacinto Cruz and Jose Rodriguez-Saldana lay unconscious in an Iowa hospital while the American health care system weighed what to do with the two immigrants from Mexico.

The men had health insurance from jobs at one of the nation's largest pork producers. But neither had legal permission to live in the U.S., nor was it clear whether their insurance would pay for the long-term rehabilitation they needed.

So Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines took matters into its own hands: After consulting with the patients' families, it quietly loaded the two comatose men onto a private jet that flew them back to Mexico, effectively deporting them without consulting any court or federal agency.

When the men awoke, they were more than 1,800 miles away in a hospital in Veracruz, on the Mexican Gulf Coast.

Hundreds of immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally have taken similar journeys through a little-known removal system run not by the federal government trying to enforce laws but by hospitals seeking to curb high costs. A recent report compiled by immigrant advocacy groups made a rare attempt to determine how many people are sent home, concluding that at least 600 immigrants were removed over a five-year period, though there were likely many more.

In interviews with immigrants, their families, attorneys and advocates, The Associated Press reviewed the obscure process known formally as "medical repatriation," which allows hospitals to put patients on chartered international flights, often while they are still unconscious. Hospitals typically pay for the flights.

"The problem is it's all taking place in this unregulated sort of a black hole ... and there is no tracking," said law professor Lori Nessel, director of the Center for Social Justice at Seton Hall Law School, which offers free legal representation to immigrants.

Now advocates for immigrants are concerned that hospitals could soon begin expanding the practice after full implementation of federal health care reform, which will make deep cuts to the payments hospitals receive for taking care of the uninsured.

Health care executives say they are caught between a requirement to accept all patients and a political battle over immigration.

"It really is a Catch-22 for us," said Dr. Mark Purtle, vice president of Medical Affairs for Iowa Health System, which includes Iowa Methodist Medical Center. "This is the area that the federal government, the state, everybody says we're not paying for the undocumented."

Hospitals are legally mandated to care for all patients who need emergency treatment, regardless of citizenship status or ability to pay. But once a patient is stabilized, that funding ceases, along with the requirement to provide care. Many immigrant workers without citizenship are ineligible for Medicaid, the government's insurance program for the poor and elderly.

That's why hospitals often try to send those patients to rehabilitation centers and nursing homes back in their home countries.

Civil rights groups say the practice violates U.S. and international laws and unfairly targets one of the nation's most defenseless populations.

"They don't have advocates, and they don't have people who will speak on their behalf," said Miami attorney John De Leon, who has been arguing such cases for a decade.

Estimating the number of cases is difficult since no government agency or organization keeps track.

The Center for Social Justice and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest have documented at least 600 immigrants who were involuntarily removed in the past five years for medical reasons. The figure is based on data from hospitals, humanitarian organizations, news reports and immigrant advocates who cited specific cases. But the actual number is believed to be significantly higher because many more cases almost certainly go unreported.

Some patients who were sent home subsequently died in hospitals that weren't equipped to meet their needs. Others suffered lingering medical problems because they never received adequate rehabilitation, the report said.

Gail Montenegro, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said the agency "plays no role in a health care provider's private transfer of a patient to his or her country of origin."

Such transfers "are not the result of federal authority or action," she said in an email, nor are they considered "removals, deportations or voluntary departures" as defined by the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The two Mexican workers in Iowa came to the U.S. in search of better jobs and found work at Iowa Select Farms, which provided them with medical insurance even though they had no visas or other immigration documents.

An Iowa Select Farms spokeswoman said Tuesday she could find no record that the men worked for the company under those names. The attorney for the two men said he learned through subpoenas that they had worked for a pork company that he believes was once a subsidiary of Iowa Select.

The two were returning home from a fishing trip in May 2008 when their car was struck by a semitrailer truck. Both were thrown from the vehicle and suffered serious head injuries.

At the time, Cruz had been here for about six months, Rodriguez-Saldana for a little over a year.

Insurance paid more than $100,000 for the two men's emergency treatment. But it was unclear whether the policies would pay for long-term rehabilitation. Two rehabilitation centers refused to take them.

Eleven days after the car crash, the two men were still comatose as they were carried aboard a jet bound for Veracruz, where a hospital had agreed to take them.

Rodriguez-Saldana, now 39, said the Des Moines hospital told his family that he was unlikely to survive and should be sent home.

The hospital "doesn't really want Mexicans," he said in a telephone interview with the AP. "They wanted to disconnect me so I could die. They said I couldn't survive, that I wouldn't live."

Hospital officials said they could not discuss the case because of litigation. The men and their families filed a lawsuit in 2010 claiming they received minimal rehabilitative care in Veracruz.

A judge dismissed the lawsuit last year ruling that Iowa Methodist was not to blame for the inadequate care in Veracruz. The courts also found that even though the families of the men may not have consented to their transport to Mexico, they also failed to object to it. An appeals court upheld the dismissal.

Patients are frequently told family members want them to come home. In cases where the patient is unconscious or can't communicate, relatives are told their loved one wants to return, De Leon said.

Sometimes they're told the situation is dire, and the patient may die, prompting many grief-stricken relatives to agree to a transfer, he said.

Some hospitals "emotionally extort family members in their home coun-

See IMMIGRANTS on Next Page

A look at immigrant patients deported by hospitals

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Over the last five years, American hospitals have sent at least 600 immigrants who were in the U.S. illegally back to their home countries to avoid paying for long-term care after serious illness or injury.

The Center for Social Justice at Seton Hall University has documented "medical repatriation" cases in 15 states involving patients from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Lithuania, Mexico, the Philippines and South Korea.

Here's a look at some of the most dramatic examples from a report issued in December:

■■■

Quelino Ojeda Jimenez was working atop a building at Chicago's Midway Airport in 2010 when he fell, suffering injuries that left him nearly quadriplegic and reliant on a ventilator.

Advocate Christ Medical Center cared for Jimenez for four months, absorbing more than $650,000 in costs, according to a 2011 Chicago Tribune story.

Three days before Christmas that year, the hospital put him aboard a medical flight and sent him to Mexico, even though his family protested. Crying and unable to speak, Jimenez could do nothing to prevent his removal.

The receiving hospital in Mexico lacked rehabilitation services and could not afford new filters for his ventilator. After suffering two heart attacks and a septic infection, Jimenez died on Jan. 2, 2012.

■■■

Luis Alberto Jimenez was working as a landscaper in Florida when the car he was in was struck by a drunk driver in February 2000.

Jimenez, then 35, suffered brain damage and other injuries and was treated at Martin Memorial Medical Center in Stuart, Fla., until June, when he was transferred to a nursing home.

The following January, he was readmitted to the hospital with an infection that doctors feared could be fatal. He stayed at the hospital for a year because no other long-term care provider would take him.

The hospital eventually filed a lawsuit in state court seeking permission to transport him to a hospital in his native Guatemala. A judge approved the flight in June 2003, and Jimenez was flown to Guatemala before the court could rule on an appeal filed by his legal guardian.

In mid-2004, the Florida District Court of Appeals overturned the lower court's order, declaring that state courts do not have the authority to permit deportations, which are regulated by federal immigration law. But by then Jimenez had been returned home, bedridden and suffering from seizures, to live with his elderly mother in a remote area of Guatemala.

■■■

Barbara Latasiewicz was working as a housekeeper in the Chicago area in 2009 when she had a stroke while scrubbing a bathtub. The Polish woman was paralyzed on her left side and needed around-the-clock care.

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital tried to find her long-term care, but 30 facilities refused to take her because she was undocumented. Latasiewicz had overstayed a temporary visa after arriving in the U.S. in 1990.

The hospital allowed her to stay without insurance or any other way to pay for 2½ years at a cost of more than $1.4 million.

In early 2012, arrangements were made to transfer her to a stroke-specialty unit in Poland. She refused to consent to the transfer, which would permanently separate her from her son and grandchildren. The hospital obtained a judge's order allowing her transfer to Poland.

A March 1 story in the *Chicago Tribune* says the 60-year-old woman cried while sitting in the airport awaiting a flight out, knowing she would probably never return to the U.S., which had been her home for more than 20 years.

Overdrive

Upgraded Mazda CX-5 goes from caterpillar to butterfly

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Like a butterfly breaking out of its chrysalis, the 2014 Mazda CX-5 Grand Touring crossover emerges transformed this spring.

The 2013 CX-5 that debuted a year ago was the first vehicle to use Mazda's highly touted, awkwardly named SkyActiv suite of systems to improve fuel economy. It was an underpowered, underwhelming disappointment.

The 2014 CX-5 soars above that caterpillar, thanks to a new engine that boosts horsepower 19 percent and torque 23 percent without reducing fuel economy.

The CX-5 competes with five-passenger crossover SUVs like the Chevrolet Equinox, Dodge Journey, Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Hyundai Santa Fe Sport, Kia Sportage; Nissan Rogue, Toyota RAV4 and Volkswagen Tiguan.

The new 2.5-liter engine produces 184 horsepower and 185 pound-feet of torque at 3,250 rpm. That's an unusually low torque peak for an engine without a turbocharger. For instance, the Honda CR-V's 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine peaks at 163 pound-feet at 4,400 rpm. Behind the wheel, the CX-5's higher torque at lower engine speed translates to smooth, confident acceleration and good throttle response. The CX-5 has more torque at lower rpm than the non-turbo four-cylinder engines in the Equinox, Journey, Escape, CR-V, Sportage, Rogue and RAV4.

MAZDA/MCT

The 2014 Mazda CX-5 offers a new engine option that boosts horsepower 19 percent and torque 23 percent without reducing fuel economy.

The 2.5-liter engine comes with the CX-5's two upper trim levels: Touring and Grand Touring. The weak-kneed—155 horsepower at 6,000 rpm, 150 pound-feet at 4,000 rpm—2.0-liter carries over on the Sport model.

Prices for the 2014 Mazda CX-5 start at $21,195 for a front-wheel drive Sport with the 2.0-liter and six-speed manual transmission. A six-speed automatic raises the tab to $22,595. Adding all-wheel drive—available only with the automatic—kicks it up to $23,845.

Note: I list prices for the Sport out of a sense of obligation, not endorsement. The barely serviceable 2.0-liter made the 2013 CX-5 one of the most disappointing vehicles I tested last year. It was a burlap bag of a crossover—inexpensive and fuel-efficient, but totally lacking the zippy character that's always been Mazda's greatest charm.

The 2.5-liter cures what ails the Sport. Starting at $24,615 in a front-drive Touring—$25,865 for AWD—it restores Mazda to the forefront of fun, affordable driving. Prices for the CX-5 Grand Touring start at $27,620 for front-drive and $28,870 for AWD. The 2.5-liter engine only comes with a six-speed automatic transmission. All prices exclude destination charges.

I tested a very well-equipped front-drive CX-5 priced at $29,845. It featured excellent interior materials and Bose audio, a power sun roof, blind spot alert, Bluetooth phone and audio compatibility and voice recognition. I've evaluated several crossovers that cost more but offered less.

In addition to the new engine, the quick-shifting six-speed automatic transmission locks its torque converter at low speeds to reduce internal slip and increase efficiency. The CX-5 is also one of the lightest vehicles in its class.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Mazda CX-5 Grand Touring

- Type of vehicle: Front-wheel drive five-passenger crossover SUV
- Rating: Four out of four stars
- Reasons to buy: Fuel economy; performance; looks; interior materials; features; value
- Shortcomings: Interior noise; voice-recognition commands.
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic
- Engine: 2.5-liter direct-injected DOHC variable timing 16-valve four-cylinder.
- Power: 184 horsepower at 5,700 rpm; 185 pound-feet of torque at 3,250 rpm
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic
- EPA fuel economy rating: 25 mpg city/32 highway/27 combined. Regular fuel.
- Base price, base model: $21,195
- Base price, test model: $27,620
- Price as tested: $29,845

All prices exclude destination charges

Message of Appreciation

On the passing of our beloved

†Candilaria Atalig Agulto

There are no words adequate enough to describe the pain the sense of loss that is felt upon the death of a loved one.
Yet, in this time of loss, the prayers, kind words, and gracious support of family and friends have eased our sorrows and has become a source of strength.

Your presence and prayers at the nightly rosaries and most especially at the Mass of Christian Burial were very comforting.

Our special thanks go out to Fr. Celso Magbanua, Jr., Marcy Cepeda and especially to our techa Ms. Elaine Camacho

Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will be remembered always.
May our loving and kind Lord richly bless all of you and keep you in his heart.

Thank you and Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Children and Families

IMMIGRANTS

From Page 17

try," De Leon said. "They make family members back home feel guilty so they can simply put them on a plane and drop them off at the airport."

In court documents, Iowa hospital officials said they had received permission from Saldana's parents and Cruz's long-term partner for the flight to Mexico. Family members deny they gave consent.

There's no way to know for sure whether the two men would have recovered faster or better in the United States. But the accident left both of them with life-altering disabilities.

Nearly five years later, the 49-year-old Cruz is paralyzed on his left side, the result of damage to his hip and spine. He has difficulty speaking and can't work.

"I can't even walk," he said in a telephone interview, breaking into tears several times. His long-term partner, Belem, said he's more emotional since the accident.

"He feels bad because he went over there and came back like this," she said. "Now he can't work at all. ... He cries a lot."

She works selling food and cleaning houses. Their oldest son, 22, sometimes contributes to the family income.

Rodriguez-Saldana said he has to pay for intensive therapy for his swollen feet and bad circulation. He also said he walks poorly and has difficulty working. He sells home supplies such as kitchen and bath towels and dishes, a business that requires a lot of walking and visiting houses. He often forgets where he lives, but people recognize him on the street and take him home because he's confused.

The American Hospital Association said it does not have a specific policy governing immigrant removals, and it does not track how many hospitals encounter the issue.

Nessel expects medical removals to increase with implementation of health care reform, which makes many more patients eligible for Medicaid. As a result, the government plans to cut payments to hospitals that care for the uninsured.

Some hospitals call immigration authorities when they receive patients without immigration documentation, but the government rarely responds, Nessel said. Taking custody of the patient would also require the government to assume financial responsibility for care.

Jan Stipe runs the Iowa Methodist department that finds hospitals in patients' native countries that are willing to take them. The hospital's goal, she said, is to "get patients back to where their support systems are, their loved ones who will provide the care and the concern that each patient needs."

The American Medical Association's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs issued a strongly worded directive to doctors in 2009, urging them not to "allow hospital administrators to use their significant power and the current lack of regulations" to send patients to other countries.

Doctors cannot expect hospitals to provide costly uncompensated care to patients indefinitely, the statement said. "But neither should physicians allow hospitals to arbitrarily determine the fate of an uninsured noncitizen immigrant patient."

Arturo Morales, a Monterrey, Mexico, lawyer who helps Cruz and Rodriguez-Saldana with legal issues, is convinced the men would have been better off staying in Iowa.

"I have no doubt," he said. "You have a patient who doesn't have money to pay you. You can't let them die."

Associated Press Writer Barbara Rodriguez in Des Moines contributed to this report.

Life & Style

F. Scott Fitzgerald's handwritten ledger online

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP)— An intriguing peek into the daily scribbles and life of author F. Scott Fitzgerald is now available online, just weeks before the opening of the movie "The Great Gatsby."

Researchers from the University of South Carolina's Thomas Cooper Library put a digital version of the famed author's handwritten financial ledger on their website last week, making it available for the first time for all readers, students and scholars.

"This is a record of everything Fitzgerald wrote, and what he did with it, in his own hand," said Elizabeth Sudduth, director of the Ernest F. Hollings Library and Rare Books Collection.

During a recent visit to the library's below-ground rare-book vault, Sudduth took the original 200-page book out of its clamshell protective cover. The ledger's yellowed pages—with Fitzgerald's elegant, measured cursive strokes—are a throwback to life before computer spreadsheets. The ledger shows Fitzgerald's tally of earnings from his works, the most famous of which is the novel "The Great Gatsby." The ledger lists his many short stories, books, and adaptations for stage and screen.

With the May 10 release of a new "Gatsby" movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Sudduth says library officials expect an upswing in interest in its Fitzgerald collection. The ledger will be on display at the library for about a month starting May 6, Sudduth said.

The library's Fitzgerald collection is considered the world's most comprehensive, with more than 3,000 publications, manuscripts, letters, book editions, screenplays and memorabilia. It also includes Fitzgerald's walking stick, briefcase and an engraved silver flask his wife gave him in 1918.

Some parts of the collection already are online. With the ledger's move to the website and the timing of the movie, Sudduth said, officials hope to call more attention to the collection.

In the ledger, Fitzgerald lists in carefully laid out columns his various pieces of writing, the location they were printed, and the income they produced. Fitzgerald's comments are sprinkled throughout. One describes the year 1919—when his first novel was accepted for publication and Zelda Sayre agreed to marry him, as—"The most important year of life. Every emotion and my life work decided. Miserable and ecstatic but a great success."

By the time Fitzgerald started the ledger, Sudduth said, "he probably knew what he was doing. He left a space for his remarks, and then the final disposition."

With a laugh, she noted: "We know he didn't spell very well. And his arithmetic wasn't much better,"

But the overall document, she said, "shows that he was far more on top of his affairs than people thought," given a reputation in later life as a heavy drinker.

"He was keeping a record of his work for the future," Suddeth said. "He kept it, he updated it."

For the past 30 years, researchers have had to rely on a limited print facsimile of the ledger, which didn't catch the varied inks and scripts in Fitzgerald's hand.

Park Bucker, a USC associate English professor, said he's excited to discuss the new ledger with his students.

"It may be a unique artifact among American authors," Bucker said. "This is going to be an amazing thing for students to pore over and dip into. He created his own database. We do it on computers now, but he did it for himself,"

Bucker also said students are fascinated by seeing something a well-known author penned in his own hand.

"Students always remark how much they love his handwriting," he said. "They think his handwriting is just beautiful, and handwriting isn't valued today."

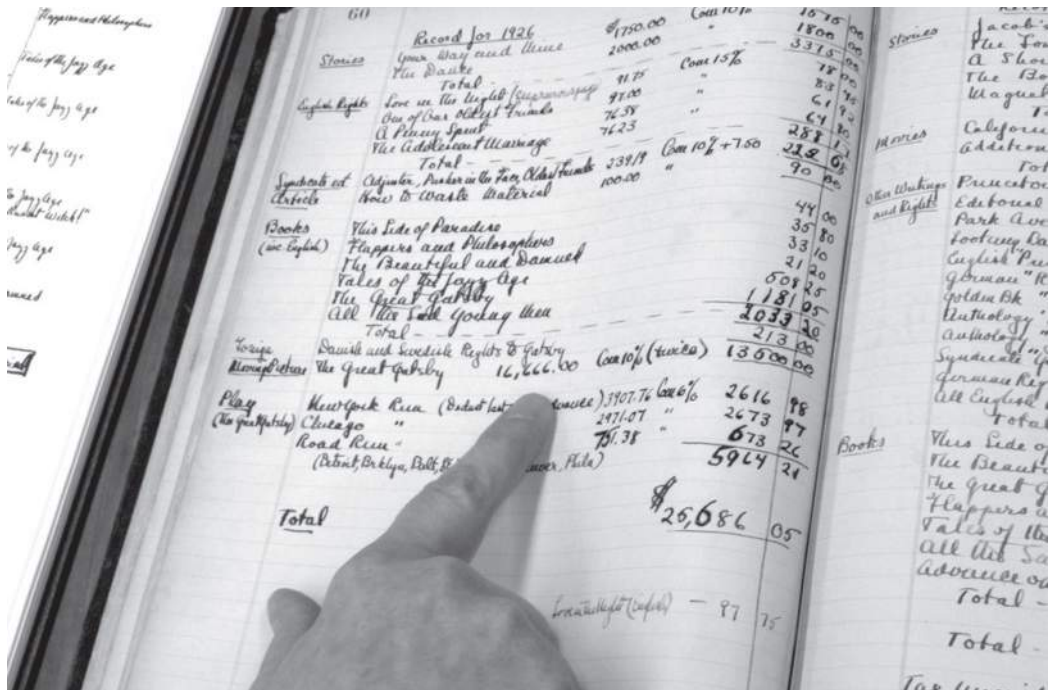
Bucker pointed out that the ledger shows Fitzgerald made most of his income from short stories and that he was able to earn a living from his literary work. "It was the rarest of things, an author who made a living," Bucker said.

In 1925, the ledger shows Fitzgerald earned less than $2,000 for the "Gatsby" book—the same amount he received for a single short story published in The Saturday Evening Post.

In later years, Fitzgerald added more earnings from "The Great Gatsby." He sold the foreign motion picture rights for $16,666, as noted in the ledger. In another section, he lists about $5,000 in earnings from "Gatsby" when it ran as a play in New York, Chicago and elsewhere.

USC Professor Matthew Bruccoli began to acquire items for the Fitzgerald collection in the 1950s. He received some, including the ledger, from the author's only child, daughter Frances Scott Fitzgerald, also known as Scottie. Bruccoli wanted the collection to be used as a teaching and research tool, and he gave it to the university in 1994.

Bruccoli has since died, but the collection has continued to grow. It is now is valued at more than $4 million, Sudduth said.



AP

In this Tuesday, March 26, 2013 photo, Elizabeth Sudduth, director of the Ernest F. Hollings Library and Rare Books Collection at the University of South Carolina, points at items in a ledger owned by author F. Scott Fitzgerald, in Columbia, S.C. The university has digitized the ledger and put it online for scholars.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Dace Falemuimui Teregeyo

November 16, 1962 – April 26, 2013

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Parents: *†Tulisa Sesepasara & †Fuamatala Seiuli Sesepasara*
Parents In-Law: *†Jose Peter Teregeyo & †Florencia Tilipao Teregeyo*
Brothers & In-Law: *†Tulisa Jr. Sesepasara, †Ta'aloga Lauofo & †Jesus Teregeyo*

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Husband: ***Martin Tilipao Teregeyo***
Children & Family: ***Marvic Rogopes***, ***Carrington Benjamin*** *Teregeyo/Avalynne Cabrera (Carrington Marben Rye, Benjamin Varrion, Michael Fa'apaia),* ***Joelisa Florencia*** *Teregeyo/Rambo Cantero (Dace Jasmen),* ***Roxie*** *Tuleva Teregeyo/Lionel Tudela,* ***RosaDee*** *Teregeyo/Leroy Rangamar (Bwilitowpi Agelu),* ***Damart*** *Teregeyo &* ***Mardee*** *Teregeyo*
Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws: ***Kerina*** *Hendrix,* ***Fa'afetai*** *Seiuli,* ***Sofeni*** *Seiuli,* ***Lisa Luana*** *Sesepasara,* ***Lisa*** *Sesepasara Willington,* ***Michael*** *Sesepasara,* ***Benjamin*** *Sesepasara,* ***Cindy*** *Sesepasara,* ***Anabelle*** *Sesepasara,* ***Elizabeth*** *Kotrys,* ***Fuamatala*** *Berki, Vicente Teregeyo, Camern Teregeyo, Climaco Laniyo, Jennie Sarkar & Tito Laniyo*
Sisters at Heart: *Cecilia Kileleman, Bernie Tegita & Angie Teregeyo*
Daughters/Son at Heart: *Barbara and Gus Romolor (Itchakomi Romolor) & Denise Demapan*

She is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each morning at 06:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church. Holy Rosary is being prayed nightly at their residence in Garapan adjacent to Marianas Variety at 7:30 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, May 04, 2013. Her remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 08:00 a.m.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Martin Tilipao Teregeyo
Children and Families

Responso Services:	**08:30 a.m**
Holy Rosary:	**11:30 a.m.**
Mass of Christian Burial:	**03:00 p.m.**
Interment Service:	**04:00 p.m.**

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Friday, Apr. 26th through Thu. May 2nd, 2013

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NOW SHOWING

Pain & Gain

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday through Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Dwayne Johnson, Ed Harris
Genre: Action • Rated R

Oblivion

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday through Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Tom Cruise, Olga Kurylenko, Morgan Freeman
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Scary Movie 5

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday through Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, Ashley Tisdale
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Call

Friday			7:30
Saturday	1:30		7:30
Sunday	1:30		7:30
Monday through Thursday			7:30

Cast: Halle Berry, Evie Thompson, Abigail Breslin
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Jurassic Park 3D

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday through Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday		7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday through Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday through Thursday 4:25

The Croods 3D

Friday		7:15	
Saturday	1:15	7:15	
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday through Thursday		7:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

The Croods 2D

Friday & Saturday	4:15	9:30
Sunday through Thursday	4:15	

Olympus Has Fallen

Friday	4:30	9:35
Saturday	4:30	9:35
Sunday	4:30	
Monday through Thursday	4:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

• No passes ■ No passes or Supersavers

Tickets and showtimes

REGmovies.com

Available on the App Store

Helen Mirren reigns at London's Olivier awards

LONDON (AP)—Helen Mirren was crowned queen of the London stage at the Olivier Awards Sunday, while compelling, canine-titled teen drama "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" emerged as best in show with seven trophies.

Mirren, 67, was a popular and expected best actress choice for her regal yet vulnerable Queen Elizabeth II in "The Audience," Peter Morgan's behind-palace-doors drama about the relationship between Britain's queen and its prime ministers.

The actress, who won an Academy Award in 2007 for playing Britain's monarch in "The Queen," quipped that it was 87-year-old Elizabeth who deserved an award, "for the most consistent and committed performance of the 20th century, and probably the 21st century."

Backstage, it turned out she wasn't kidding. Mirren, who has been Olivier-nominated three times before, said that finally winning "doesn't mean that I was the best actor. There were so many incredible performances out there."

"I was making a joke about the queen winning, but I think actually it is a reflection of the kind of respect the queen is held in," she said.

Her "Audience" co-star, Richard McCabe, who won the supporting actor trophy for playing 1960s and 70s Prime Minister Harold Wilson, said Mirren was a joy to work with.

"It's important as an actor to be absolutely fearless, and she is," he said.

While the queen herself hasn't been to see the Stephen Daldry-directed show—rumored to be Broadway-bound—McCabe said "a lot of people in the royal household have been coming in and watching incognito, and they must be reporting back."

The surprise of the awards ceremony at London's Royal Opera House was "Curious Incident," an adaptation of Mark Haddon's best-selling young-adult novel about a teenage math prodigy with Asperger's Syndrome who sets out to find the killer of his neighbor's dog, with destabilizing results.

AP

Helen Mirren, winner of Best Actress Award for "The Audience", and Daniel Radcliffe in the press room at the Olivier Awards 2013 at the Royal opera House in London on Sunday, April 28th, 2013.

The show, which premiered at the state-subsidized National Theatre last year before transferring to a commercial West End playhouse, has won praise for its creative use of movement and technology to make the leap from page to stage.

The Simon Stephens-scripted drama was named best new play, and 28-year-old Luke Treadaway was crowned best actor, beating a strong list of contenders including Rupert Everett, Mark Rylance and James McAvoy.

Treadaway said the "Curious" company knew they had created "something really special" with the show about a teenager "who sees the world differently to a lot of people."

"I think people could kind of see themselves in him," Treadaway said.

"This is not even necessary," he said, holding his trophy, a bust of the late actor Laurence Olivier. "I enjoy doing it so much anyway."

The play also won prizes for director Marianne Elliott and supporting actress Nicola Walker, as well as for set, lighting and sound.

Walker said the play had, through some "magic," succeeded in creating an onstage world as seen through the eyes of a teenage hero with autism.

"You start out thinking (it) is completely different to our world, and you end up thinking 'No, there are parts of this world I understand.'"

The Olivier awards honor achievements in London plays, musicals, dance and opera. Winners in most categories are chosen by a panel of stage professionals and theatergoers.

Founded in 1976, the Oliviers have been laying on the glitz in recent years, with glossy ceremonies modeled on Broadway's Tony Awards.

"Downton Abbey" actor Hugh Bonneville and West End star Sheridan Smith—an Olivier winner in 2011 and 2012—hosted a sparky ceremony that included performances by "Glee" star Matthew Morrison, Tony-winning "Wicked" diva Idina Menzel and 60s songstress Petula Clark.

The best new musical category had a retro feel, with the trophy going to "Top Hat"—a tap-dancing, tail-coated homage to Hollywood's Golden Age based on the 1935 Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers movie. It also won awards for costume design and choreography.

Blood-soaked musical "Sweeney Todd" took the prize for best musical revival, with its stars Imelda Staunton and Michael Ball named best actress and actor in a musical.

"I'm not sure I deserve this," Ball said. "But I've also got sciatica, and I don't deserve that either."

Royal Ballet principal dancer Marianela Nunez took the prize for outstanding achievement in dance, while the same company's "Aeternum" was named best new dance production.

An immersive staging of the Philip Glass opera "Einstein on the Beach" at London's Barbican Centre was named best new opera production. American tenor Bryan Hymel won the outstanding achievement in opera prize for performances at the Royal Opera House.

Special achievement awards went to choreographer Gillian Lynne—best known for her work on Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals including "Cats" and "The Phantom of the Opera"—and playwright Michael Frayn, whose classic backstage farce "Noises Off" is still going strong 30 years after its debut.

Musical of 'Rocky' heading to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—It's been a knockout in Germany. Now Sylvester Stallone hopes a musical based on his beloved boxing film "Rocky" will also be a hit on Broadway.

Producers said Sunday they plan to get "Rocky" up and punching at the Winter Garden by February following a successful debut in Hamburg last fall.

Based on the Oscar-winning 1976 film, the musical features a score by "Ragtime" veterans Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, and a story by Thomas Meehan, who wrote "The Producers" and "Hairspray."

Originally written in English but translated into German for its world premiere and billed as "Rocky: Das Musical," the show is produced by Stallone and Stage Entertainment USA.

"The reason I think it has worked so well there and why I think it'll work on Broadway is that, yes, it's a story about boxing, but the real story is actually an intimate, powerful and gritty and moving love story between two people who are both lonely and in a difficult place in their worlds," said Bill Taylor, managing director of Stage Entertainment USA. "They sort of rescue each other. It's very uplifting."

AP

This undated publicity image originally released by United Artists shows Sylvester Stallone posing in character as Rocky Balboa in the boxing film, "Rocky."

The musical stays close to the film, which charted the rise and romance of amateur boxer and debt collector Rocky Balboa, played in Germany by Drew Sarich. No casting has been decided for New York.

In the story, Balboa, nicknamed the Italian Stallion, gets his shot against undefeated heavyweight champion Apollo Creed, played in the film by Carl Weathers. He also woos a love interest, Adrianna "Adrian" Pennino. Stallone wrote the screenplay and it won the best picture Oscar in 1976.

The film made famous the image of Balboa running up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the quote "Yo, Adrian!" The German production kept the trumpet-laden funky theme "Gonna Fly Now" and the anthem "Eye of the Tiger," written for "Rocky III." Both will also be in the Broadway version.

The director is Alex Timbers, who directed Broadway's "The Pee-wee Herman Show" and directed and wrote the book for "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson." The boxing choreography is being done by Steven Hoggett, who choreographed "American Idiot," ''Peter and the Starcatcher" and "Once."

"This is not boxers doing a kick line," Taylor said. "It's stunning movement representing some of the sparring and the fighting. It's very, very cleverly created."

'Iron Man 3' rules world, 'Pain & Gain' takes US

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Iron Man 3" was the heavy-lifter at theaters with a debut outside the U.S. that overshadowed a gang of mercenary bodybuilders in a sleepy pre-summer weekend at the domestic box office.

The Marvel Studios superhero sequel starring Robert Downey Jr. got a head-start on its domestic launch next Friday with a $195.3 million opening in 42 overseas markets, distributor Disney reported Sunday.

That topped the $185.1 million start for Marvel's "The Avengers," which opened in 39 markets over the same weekend last year a week ahead of its record-breaking domestic debut of $207.4 million.

AP

This film image released by Paramount Pictures shows, from left, Dwayne Johnson, Anthony Mackie and Mark Wahlberg in a scene from "Pain and Gain."

"You don't know that you could ever repeat the kind of experience we had a year ago, and here the Marvel team brought together another incredible movie," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Disney. "We've had this as a pattern for Marvel films to kind of let momentum internationally help signal to the domestic audience that the film is coming, something big is coming."

Director Michael Bay's true-crime tale "Pain & Gain" muscled into first-place domestically with a $20 million debut.

The Paramount release starring Mark Wahlberg, Dwayne Johnson and Anthony Mackie knocked off Tom Cruise's sci-fi adventure "Oblivion" after a week in the No. 1 spot. Universal's "Oblivion" slipped to second-place with $17.4 million, raising its domestic total to $64.7 million.

Lionsgate's all-star nuptial comedy "The Big Wedding" tanked at No. 4 with just $7.5 million. The ensemble cast includes Robert De Niro, Diane Keaton, Robin Williams, Susan Sarandon and Katherine Heigl, but the movie was almost universally trashed by critics and held little interest for audiences.

"Oblivion" was down a fairly steep 53 percent from the movie's $37.1 million domestic debut the previous weekend.

Overseas, "Oblivion" took in $12.8 million to lift its international haul to $134.1 million and worldwide total to just under $200 million.

1. "**Pain & Gain**," $20 million.
2. "**Oblivion**," $17.4 million ($12.8 million international).
3. "**42**," $10.7 million.
4. "**The Big Wedding**," $7.5 million.
5. "**The Croods**," $6.6 million ($13.1 million international).
6. "**G.I. Joe: Retaliation**," $3.6 million ($10.2 million international).
7. "**Scary Movie 5**," $3.5 million.
8. "**Olympus Has Fallen**," $2.8 million.
9. "**The Place Beyond the Pines**," $2.7 million.
10. "**Jurassic Park**" in 3-D, $2.3 million ($410,000 international).

Rolling Stones rock small LA club ahead of tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For one night only, the Rolling Stones were an up-and-coming band again.

The legendary group rocked a small club in Los Angeles on Saturday night for a minuscule crowd compared to the thousands set to see them launch their "50 and Counting" anniversary tour a week later on May 3 at the Staples Center.

The band kicked off Saturday's hush-hush 90-minute concert at the Echoplex in the hip Echo Park neighborhood with "You Got Me Rocking" before catapulting into a mix of new and old material, as well as their bluesy covers of classics from Otis Redding ("That's How Strong My Love Is"), Chuck Berry ("Little Queenie") and The Temptations ("Just My Imagination").

"Welcome to Echo Park, a neighborhood that's always coming up—and I'm glad you're here to welcome an up-and-coming band," lead singer Mick Jagger joked after the second song of the evening, "Respectable."

Despite clocking in several decades as a band, Jagger, drummer Charlie Watts and guitarists Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood showed no signs of slowing down Saturday.

Jagger, who ditched a black-and-white track jacket emblazoned with the band's logo after the first few songs, worked the crowd into a singalong frenzy with "Miss You," complete with a harmonica solo from the strutting frontman.

Tickets to the Echoplex concert were sold earlier in the day for $20 each—a fraction of what tickets to the tour cost.

Hundreds of fans lined up outside the El Rey Theatre across town for a chance to attend the spontaneous show. Buyers were limited to one ticket, and they were required to pay with cash, show a government-issued ID, wear a wristband with their name on it and be photographed. Their names were verified at the venue, which has a capacity of about 700.

Cameras and smartphones weren't allowed inside the Echoplex, which usually plays host to hipster bands and mash-up dance parties. The lack of personal recording devices made the Stones' performance feel even more exclusive and old school, freeing concertgoers' hands of the gizmos that have become commonplace at concerts nowadays and further bonding the crowd, many of whom built up camaraderie during the confusing ticket lottery earlier in the day.

Toward the end of the show, the band was joined by former Stones guitarist Mick Taylor for their version of Robert Johnson's "Love in Vain," as well as "Midnight Rambler."

The band, which was backed by Darryll Jones on bass, Chuck Leavell on keys, Bobby Keys on sax and Bernard Fowler and Lisa Fischer as backup singers, encored with the hits "Brown Sugar" and "Jumpin' Jack Flash."

AP

Jerry Lewis attends "The King Of Comedy" screening on Saturday, April 27, 2013 in New York.

Jerry Lewis makes appearance at 'King of Comedy'

NEW YORK (AP)—The Tribeca Film Festival has ended on a royal note with Jerry Lewis showing up at the 30th anniversary screening of "The King of Comedy."

The 87-year-old comedian-actor walked out to thunderous applause after the screening Saturday, joining co-star Robert De Niro and director Martin Scorsese.

Lewis answered questions about the making of the film and brought the audience to laughter with a tale about a guy he met on a subway train.

In the movie, Lewis plays a talk show host kidnapped by a deranged comedian played by De Niro.

De Niro founded the festival with producers Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff as a way to rebuild the neighborhood where the World Trade Center fell in the 9/11 attacks.

If three's a crowd, five is a guarantee of misery

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am frustrated and angry over a situation that should be fun and happy. My husband, "Rick," and I are planning a trip with our two children next month. We will visit family while we are there, but they don't have room for us to stay in their home.

Rick wants to bring his mother with us. It will be a tight fit in our car, but I don't have a problem with that. What bothers me is that Rick wants her to stay with us in our hotel room.

I am a very private person. I have a problem sharing such close quarters with her. There is NO privacy in a hotel room!

I offered to get two rooms, but he feels I am being unreasonable. I feel three adults plus two children is a lot to pack into a small hotel room.

AM I being unreasonable? Or should I just accept it and deal with being miserable?

FRUSTRATED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Although there may be exceptions, as a general rule, adults need their privacy. Frankly, I am surprised your mother-in-law would be willing to go along with such an arrangement. This is a vacation, and you should not be miserable when you're supposed to be enjoying it.

A better solution would be to get two rooms, and the children should bunk with their grandmother. That way you and your husband could enjoy some private time together.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for seven years. We have no children together, but he has two young children from a previous relationship whom I have been raising as my own. They call me "Mom," but they know I'm not their biological mother. Their mother has not contacted them—or cared to—since the younger one was just months old.

My fear is now that the kids are getting older, they may want to form a relationship with her later on. I don't want to seem selfish, but they are MY kids. Any girl can have a baby, but it takes a real woman to be a mom. How should I handle this when that time comes?

DREADING THE FUTURE IN ARIZONA

DEAR DREADING THE FUTURE: It is natural for children to want to know who their biological parents are; that's the reason adoption records are no longer sealed. You appear to fear that your boyfriend's ex-girlfriend will want to swoop in and steal your maternal spotlight. From all indications, it's not the case; you are the only mother they know.

If the children want information about their birth mother, the truth should not be kept from them. Meeting her does not guarantee they will love you any less. Worrying about it is self-defeating.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is the protocol for in-person conversations vs. phone interruptions (either via text or call)? When talking with someone, I feel it's rude for the other individual to respond to voice or text messages. Can't people take a break long enough to actually have a real LIVE conversation? How do other readers handle this? Do they walk away? Patiently wait? Or speak up?

TECHNOLOGICALLY OVERLOADED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR OVERLOADED: The best approach is the direct approach. Tell the person, "I wish you wouldn't do that."

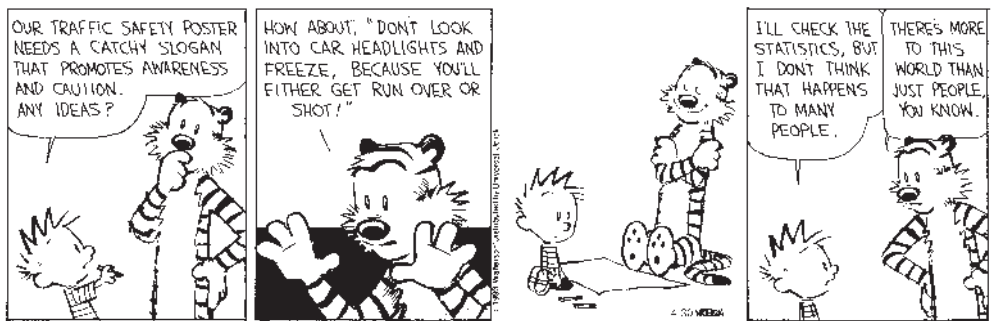
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

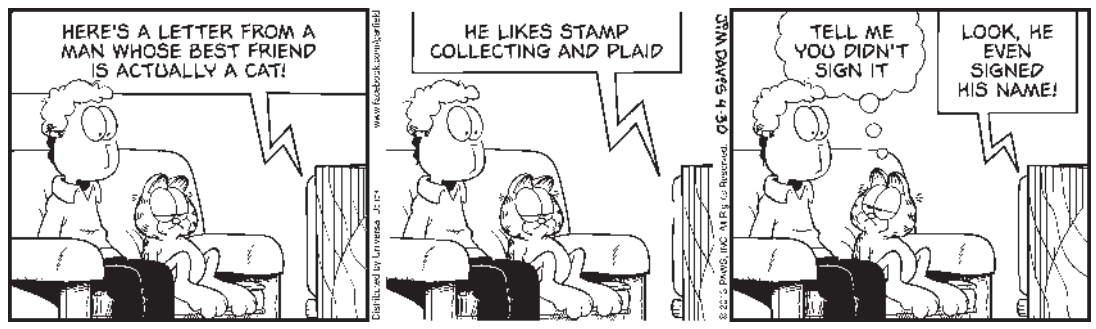
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OUR TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTER NEEDS A CATCHY SLOGAN THAT PROMOTES AWARENESS AND CAUTION. ANY IDEAS?
HOW ABOUT, "DON'T LOOK INTO CAR HEADLIGHTS AND FREEZE, BECAUSE YOU'LL EITHER GET RUN OVER OR SHOT!"
I'LL CHECK THE STATISTICS, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT HAPPENS TO MANY PEOPLE.
THERE'S MORE TO THIS WORLD THAN JUST PEOPLE, YOU KNOW.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


HERE'S A LETTER FROM A MAN WHOSE BEST FRIEND IS ACTUALLY A CAT!
HE LIKES STAMP COLLECTING AND PLAID
TELL ME YOU DIDN'T SIGN IT
LOOK, HE EVEN SIGNED HIS NAME!
JIM DAVIS 4-30

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, IS THIS A PARTICULAR DIET, OR...?
IT'S AN APP.
IT COUNTS YOUR DAILY CALORIES.
AND IT TELLS YOU HOW MUCH TO EAT AND EXERCISE.
HOW'S IT GOING?
GREAT. THOUGH I NEED TO SQUEEZE 164 HOURS OF WALKING IN THIS WEEK.
©2013 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
4-30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

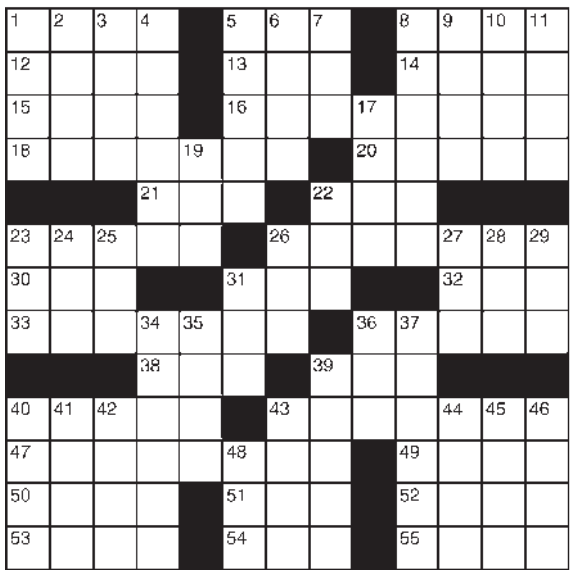
ACROSS
1 Big fish story?
5 Chart
8 Chow —
12 Reverberate
13 Commotion
14 Loosen
15 Sense
16 Result of canonization
18 Liberty
20 Supermarket section
21 Fellow
22 Former M&Ms color
23 O. Henry's specialty
26 Realm
30 Distant
31 Compete
32 Rage
33 Hollywood hope
36 140-character message
38 Conger, e.g.
39 Prohibit
40 Islamic decree
43 Ennui
47 Haphazardly
49 Church section
50 Active one
51 Gist
52 Family
53 Raced
54 Noshed
55 Maintained

DOWN
1 Comic Foxworthy
2 Computer brand
3 Roller coaster outcry
4 Grave
5 Lawyer
6 First 21-Across
7 Luau dish
8 Cutting the volume
9 Tackles' teammates
10 "American —"
11 Alaskan city
17 Flatbread of India
19 Rotation duration
22 Dead heat
23 Conditions
24 Snitch
25 Man- played by Burr
26 Basinger or Cattrall
27 Conk out
28 Raw rock
29 Bumped into
31 Encyc. component
34 Finder's fee
35 Campus VIP
36 Pitch
37 Mechanic's tool
39 Layered ice cream treat
40 Crazes
41 On
42 Genealogy display
43 Match in the ring
44 "Over hill, over —..."
45 Ellipse
46 Fix
48 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	I	B	B	■	A	H	A	■	A	M	O	S
A	L	O	F	■	M	F	N	■	T	U	B	F
R	I	L	E	■	O	R	T	H	O	D	O	X
B	A	I	I	E	R	■	S	U	N	S	E	T
■	■	■	L	O	E	B	■	G	A	L	■	■
O	R	I	E	N	T	A	L	■	L	I	S	P
D	I	N	■	S	T	R	I	P	■	D	O	E
D	O	V	E	■	O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T
■	■	E	N	D	■	E	I	R	E	■	■	■
L	A	I	C	A	L	■	M	E	N	I	A	L
O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	E	■	A	C	M	E
A	I	L	S	■	M	O	N	■	C	O	M	A
F	L	E	E	■	B	O	T	■	E	N	O	S

Yesterday's answer 4-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Vernon, 32; Dianna Agron, 27; Kirsten Dunst, 31; Johnny Galecki, 38

Happy Birthday: Wrap things up. Put an end to bad habits and strive for perfection in all areas of your life. Good fortune is within reach if you show greater determination and drive to accomplish the life goals you set. Believing in yourself and your abilities coupled with learning whatever is necessary to advance will pay off. Your numbers are 4, 7, 16, 22, 24, 36, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Have a good comeback ready. Don't fold under pressure or give in to someone trying to manipulate a situation that involves you. Do the unexpected. As long as you are open and honest you will come out on top. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Set goals and stick to them. With a little innovation and ingenuity you will find a way to handle whatever comes your way and more. Your responsible attitude will attract someone's attention who will play an important role in your life. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Money, contracts and legal issues will be on your mind. Search for a way to make extra cash or use your skills to reach a settlement that will give you the freedom you need to move in a lucrative direction. Strive for independence. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Interacting with people from different walks of life will open your eyes to new possibilities. The opportunities that develop will help secure your livelihood as well as encourage you to do something you are good at and enjoy doing. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Play, socialize and most of all be a team player. Advancement will be yours if you present your leadership qualities. Don't let personal responsibilities stand between you and success. Show your versatility when facing a challenge or a competitor. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Venture down a path that will stretch your imagination and force you to try something new. Interacting with people offering knowledge and experience will lead to a pivotal point and the chance to advance. Personal relationships will be enhanced. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Spend more time focusing on your home and family life along with how you handle your money and your assets. Do your best to improve your surroundings and to avoid emotional clashes with business or personal partners. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Strong ties will help you accomplish your goals. A love relationship should be given your undivided attention. Someone very unique and special to you will help you reach a goal you've been struggling to reach. Take on more responsibility. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Avoid overspending, overdoing or expecting too much from others. Set your sights on your goals and be willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish them on your own. Do your best to avoid interference and focus on success. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll succeed if you avoid unpredictable people and situations. Plan your actions carefully and do whatever it takes to avoid any last-minute alterations that might disrupt your plans. Preparation will be what keeps you on track. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to anyone trying to control your life or put you in a compromising position. Use your wit, charm and intelligence and you will find a way to make the most of whatever you do. Changes at home will be beneficial. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep travel plans to a minimum. Focus on solid investments and the way you can make your money stretch. Look over your resume and your current position or one that you'd like to apply for and plan your strategy. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded and willing to work hard to achieve security.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7			9		
		9	1			5		
4	2			5			3	
			8		3		5	6
		3				4		
9	6		4		1			
	8			6			4	2
		6			5	1		
		2			8			

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	9	4	6	5	7	1	3
6	3	7	9	1	8	4	5	2
4	5	1	7	2	3	9	8	6
3	4	5	6	7	9	1	2	8
1	7	6	3	8	2	5	4	9
2	9	8	5	4	1	3	6	7
7	8	3	2	5	4	6	9	1
9	1	4	8	3	6	2	7	5
5	6	2	1	9	7	8	3	4

Difficulty Level ★ 4/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE PRADO MUSEUM Solution: 8 letters

M	C	D	S	S	E	T	I	S	N	P	A	U	L	O
U	A	I	T	O	D	A	R	P	R	A	I	R	Y	G
E	R	S	A	D	H	B	R	A	O	I	I	E	A	E
S	D	P	T	N	U	I	U	N	Y	N	I	T	D	I
U	I	L	U	E	N	T	S	I	A	T	T	E	I	D
M	N	A	E	T	R	U	C	S	L	R	S	P	R	T
P	A	Y	S	X	B	P	N	H	A	D	S	T	D	O
I	L	S	R	J	H	I	I	C	A	L	E	I	A	S
X	A	T	E	U	O	I	T	E	I	L	M	R	M	E
E	R	C	U	C	T	I	B	A	C	A	L	E	S	X
L	T	E	Q	T	O	N	T	I	G	E	T	S	A	A
S	I	J	I	N	I	E	E	E	T	I	S	I	Y	M
T	S	B	N	R	D	S	S	C	T	I	M	E	O	I
R	T	O	U	R	S	N	I	G	I	R	O	I	G	N
A	R	T	E	M	I	S	C	V	B	R	O	N	Z	E

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Airy, Annunciation, Artemis, Artist, Arts, Attraction, Bronze, Builders, Cardinal, Century, Coins, Details, Diego, Display, Dutch, Examine, Exhibition, Goya, Halls, Images, Items, Madrid, Masterpieces, Museum, Objects, Origins, Paint, Paul, Peter, Pixels, Prado, Prints, Royal, Sites, Spanish, Statue, Subjects, Time, Titian, Tour, Unique, Visit

Yesterday's Answer: Prestige

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CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Jewelry Appraiser – Must have 4 to 5 years experience in jewelry appraising, honest and trustworthy.

(1) Barber – Must have 2 to 3 years work experience. Must be familiar with crew cut, fades and hair tattoos. Applicants must mail resume together with valid identifications, original police clearance and previous employment certifications to CALMA CORPORATION PMB 205 PPP BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950. No phone calls please.

Tinian Muslim Comm., Inc. is looking for a priest. Muslim faith w/ Islamic study. 4 yrs exp. Tel. 433-2442.

---

1 Operations Manager (Tour): $1,300/mo. 5 years experience in tour agency management required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required. Email resume to hit@hanmisaipan.com.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Large family home in Dandan 5 Br./3 bths. Unfurnished w/ new Ref., Stove, Washer, walled & gated, private. View of Laulau & Forbidden Isl., 3 stories, outside kitchen. Call 322-0268.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager
Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Looking for Property
Preferred location:
Capitol Hill or Navy Hill
(Ocean View to Managaha)
- Must have property map

Please call 234-5700 or email at mtopsun@yahoo.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Fisherman
2 years experience.
Salary: $650.00
Free Boarding.

Kimo Mobile Fishing
Tel.: (670) 235-2427

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
1-Plumber
with 5 years experience. Salary negotiable.
Please submit resume to
Bespren Development c/o Exquisite Salon.
Tel. # 789-7684/789-7938

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Storekeeper
2 years experience. Salary: $5.55 p/h

Submit Resume to:
J'smalotte Corporation
P.O. Box 500877, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 235-2427

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER (1) Min 5 yrs exp in administrative and HR functions. Knowledgeable in Peachtree prog, prepares tax reports, handles permits, licenses & workers' immig docs. Represents the company before banks & gov't agencies. Clears container shipment/docs at Customs. College grad. Salary depends on qualifications & exp.

CARPENTER (1) Min 5 yrs exp in bldg repairs, maintenance & installation such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanical & others. Familiar in OSHA and CNMI environmental laws, Knowledgeable in using maintenance tools & equipment. Must have a certif from OSHA const industry safety & health training. Salary depends on qualifications.

Send resume to hongeei@pticom.com **HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.**

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER
SPORTS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a full-time news reporter and sports reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax;
- For news reporter, experience in news and feature writing preferred;
- For sports reporter, experience in sports writing preferred;
- Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment;
- Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on short notice;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email you résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. On-island hires preferred.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

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HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMEO G. DE JESUS, Petitioner, **versus** **GERLIE V. BELAMIDE-DE JESUS,** Respondent.	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0588** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOUR ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice. P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 19th day of December, 2012

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

AC PACIFIC, LLC dba STAR SANDS PLAZA
P.O.BOX 503842-CK SAIPAN,
MP 96950-3842
TELEPHONE: 233-3535 FAX: 233-3232
E-MAIL ADDRESS: star@starsands.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS AND SEEKING POSITIVE, ENERGETIC, OUTGOING, FRIENDLY, AND WITH WORK EXPERIENCE RELATED TO THE VACANCY.

1. THREE (3) MERCHANDISERS/BUYERS –MUST BE ABLE TO KNOW HOW TO DO REMERCHANDISING – MUST KNOW REPLENISHMENT FIFO SYSTEM, ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE LOWS AND OUTS AND REPORT IT TO THE STORE MANAGEMENT, MUST USE OWN JUDGEMENT TO PERFORM DUTIES, BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE QUANTITY ORDER NEEDED, SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH FACTOR AND RATIO WHEN ORDERING BOTH OFF ISLAND AND LOCALS, BE ABLE TO FAMILIARIZE WITH COST AND RETAIL AND MUST DEMONSTRATE ABILITY TO GET ALONG WITH OTHERS AND BE COACHABLE.
   MUST ALSO BE A HARD WORKER AND HAVE THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH NINE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES. THE PROSPECT MUST PROVIDE TRAINING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT CERTIFICATION. SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE ATTENDANCE IS POOR. SERIOUS APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE WORKING WITH THE "MICROSOFT DYNAMIC AX 2012" SYSTEM.
2. TO APPLY, (1) WALK-IN PREFERABLY
   (2) CAN USE OUR WEBSITE
   (3) DO NOT CALL IN

WHATZIT Solution: Pave the way

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

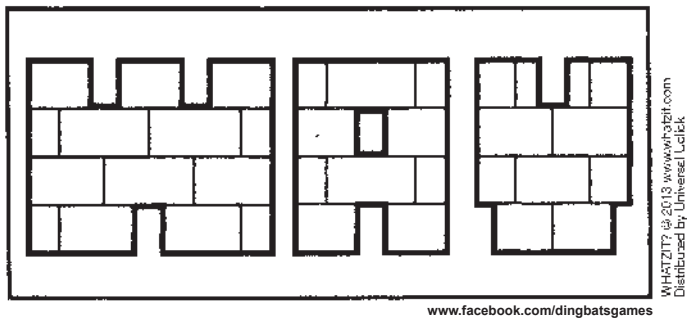
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



WHATZIT? © 2013 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Spurs finish 4-game sweep, routing Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For four straight games, the San Antonio Spurs showed off all the teamwork and tenacity that the Los Angeles Lakers lacked all season long.

And when the Lakers' tumultuous season finally collapsed Sunday night, the smooth Spurs rolled right past them to the second round.

Tony Parker scored 23 points, and San Antonio completed its first-round sweep of the injury-plagued Lakers with a 103-82 victory in Game 4.

Tim Duncan had 11 points and six rebounds for the second-seeded Spurs, who will face the winner of Denver's series with Golden State in the second round. They'll get plenty of rest after flattening the Lakers, who staggered through back-to-back blowout losses at home without three regular starters in their first opening-round exit since 2007.

"Obviously, it wasn't a fair fight," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "When you're a competitor, you want to compete on an even basis, and the Lakers weren't able to do that. ... Even though it wasn't a fair fight, we still want to win the series, and I'm glad we did. Our focus was great."

San Antonio never trailed in the clincher, leading by 25 points in one more businesslike effort against the seventh-seeded Lakers, who provided their usual drama right down to their last gasp.

In his final game before unrestricted free agency, Dwight Howard scored seven points before getting ejected early in the third quarter for arguing. Pau Gasol had 16 points for the Lakers, who were swept from the postseason for the second time in three years despite a late courtside appearance by Kobe Bryant on crutches.

"It was just a weird feeling," Parker said. "Obviously, I am happy we won, but it was just weird. They were missing a lot of guys, so we're just happy to go to the next round."

Howard said the season was "like a nightmare. It's like a bad dream, and we just couldn't wake up from it. That's what it felt like."

The Los Angeles Lakers gave away thousands of white towels to their fans Sunday, and they acquired an unfortunate symbolism: In the final game of a season that began with championship aspirations, the Lakers couldn't keep up without injured starters Bryant, Steve Nash and Metta World Peace. They had just nine available players in uniform for the final minutes.

"I'm proud of them, because they fought," Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It was kind of a year that was all upside-down, but I appreciate the effort to get us into the playoffs. We just didn't have it."

After Duncan led the Spurs' blowout in Game 3, Parker took the lead in the clincher, scoring 15 points in the first half while exploiting the Lakers' hastily assembled backcourt. Los Angeles' top four guards are out with injuries, including backups Steve Blake and Jodie Meeks, and Parker was merciless against third-stringers.

"What I was pleased about our team was that we kept our focus every night," Popovich said. "We played hard, followed the game plan and were very active and energetic every night, and sometimes that's hard to do when your opponent is wounded."

Kawhi Leonard and DeJuan Blair added 13 points apiece in the Spurs' balanced scoring effort. San Antonio trailed for fewer than five combined minutes in the four-game series, grinding out points and defensive stops with the steady professionalism of Popovich's best teams.

"This is a good start for us," Duncan said. "We like the pace we're at right now. We like the rhythm we're at right now, and how healthy we are right now. Hopefully it can stay that way."

After an unimpressive game featuring just two field goal attempts in 20 minutes, Howard was tossed with 9:51 left in the third quarter for his second technical foul. The All-Star center, furious with the Spurs' unpunished physical play, yelled a few parting words at the court after walking past general manager Mitch Kupchak in the tunnel to the locker room.

"I hate it for him," D'Antoni said, lamenting the lack of foul calls against players guarding Howard. "He gets banged up so much in there that I'm sure he didn't mean to (get ejected), but he takes a pounding, and after a while, I guess his nerves were shot."

Moments later, Bryant got the solemn Staples Center crowd on its feet when he hobbled out of the tunnel to a seat behind the Lakers' bench, making his first appearance at courtside since tearing his Achilles tendon 16 days ago. Bryant, who might not be healthy by the start of next season, repeatedly yelled instructions and encouragement at the Lakers' young backcourt, Andrew Goudelock and Darius Morris, and fill-in starter Earl Clark.

The 16-time NBA champion Lakers had high hopes for this season after landing Howard and Nash to play alongside Bryant and Gasol, but their hopes disappeared in an avalanche of injuries, losing streaks and turmoil.

There's almost no turbulence around the Spurs, who seamlessly replaced injured starting center Tiago Splitter in Game 4 with Australian rookie Aron Baynes, who had six points and played decent defense in his first NBA start.

The Spurs had control of this series from the start: They posted two methodical victories at home before sending the Lakers to their biggest home playoff defeat in their long franchise history in Game 3, 120-89. The clincher was more of the same, with the Lakers unable to mount enough teamwork to challenge the smooth Spurs.

The Spurs have swept three of their last four playoff series, winning every game in the first two rounds last season before losing in six games to Oklahoma City in the Western Conference finals. San Antonio is in the second round of the postseason for the fourth time in six seasons since their last championship in 2007.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard, left, and San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan battle under the basket during the first half in Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, April 28, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Uncertain offseason for Bucks after Heat sweep

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Brandon Jennings didn't play in the fourth quarter, and there's no telling if he'll ever play for the Milwaukee Bucks again.

Jennings and the rest of the Bucks headed into an offseason of uncertainty Sunday night after being swept out of the playoffs by the Miami Heat. The 88-77 loss was the fourth straight by double digits for Milwaukee, and the Bucks couldn't even beat the Heat with Dwyane Wade on the bench, an ice bag on his aching right knee.

"This has been a crazy year. It's been one of the craziest years of my life, actually," said Jennings, a restricted free agent. "With the coaching changes and everything, it's just a total rollercoaster."

It isn't likely to stop for the next several months, either.

Jennings is expected to test free agency, though the Bucks can match any offer for him. Monta Ellis, who led Milwaukee with 21 points on Sunday, has an $11 million player option.

Oh, the Bucks need to make a decision on Jim Boylan, too. He's been Milwaukee's coach since the team parted ways with Scott Skiles in January.

"We have a lot of decisions to make," Boylan said. "But we just finished playing our last game of the season. To make those kind of statements is a little bit too quick."

Though the Bucks drew the defending NBA champions for their first playoff appearance in three years, they began the series brimming with confidence. Jennings even predicted that Milwaukee would win the series in six games.

Instead, the Bucks quickly saw how big the gap remains between them and the Heat.

"We've been playing close, playing hard," Ellis said. "They're just a better team."

Trailing by just three going into the fourth quarter of Game 3, they watched Miami pull away with a 12-0 run. They led by 10 after the first quarter in Game 3, only to have Miami take control of the game in the third quarter.

On Sunday, the Bucks got down by 11 early. But they steadily chipped away at the lead. When Mike Dunleavy drained a 3 and Ellis scored on a floater, it cut Miami's lead to 69-67 with 9:34 to play.

"We knew they were going to come out and play as hard as they could and with as much desperation as they could to try and continue series," LeBron James said.

Ellis was fouled by Ray Allen on the play, but he missed the free throw and James grabbed the rebound. He fed Allen, who knocked down—what else? a 3. J.J. Redick missed a long 3 and James found an open Mario Chalmers for another 3 that gave the Heat a 75-67 lead with 8:27 left.

The 3 was Chalmers' 80th in the postseason, tying Tim Hardaway's franchise record.

After Luc Richard Mbah a Moute made the second of two free throws, James scored on a layup. Redick made a jumper, but Shane Battier and Allen closed out the Bucks with a pair of 3s.

James then converted a three-point play and added a layup to complete the 19-5 run—a spurt in which he had a hand in every single Miami score.

"At some point during that stretch right there, he decided he was going to put his imprint on the game and he did. In a big way," Boylan said. "When you're a superstar player like he is, that's what superstar players do."

Heat 88, Bucks 77

In Milwaukee, LeBron James scored 30, Ray Allen had another big game against his old team as the Miami Heat advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals with a victory over the Bucks. It's the first time the Heat have swept a playoff series since James and Chris Bosh joined Dwyane Wade in Miami three years ago.

And the Heat didn't even need Wade to do it. The guard missed only the second postseason game of his career, and first since 2005, with three bone bruises on his right knee.

But the Heat still won handily, winning their fourth straight game by double digits.

Wade will get plenty of time to rest now, too. The Heat will face the winner of the Brooklyn Nets-Chicago Bulls series—Chicago leads 3-1—but the next round won't begin until next Saturday.

Warriors 115, Nuggets 101

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry shook off a sore left ankle to score 22 of his 31 points in the third quarter, leading the Warriors past the Nuggets for a commanding 3-1 series lead.

Curry shot 10 of 16 from the floor and added seven assists in a dominant and dazzling display that rivaled his days in the NCAA tournament for tiny Davidson. His five 3-pointers in the third quarter lifted Golden State to a 20-point lead and its third straight victory in this frenetic and flashy series.

Jarrett Jack added 21 points and nine assists and Andrew Bogut broke out in the first half with 12 points and five rebounds for the sixth-seeded Warriors, who can close out the Nuggets in Game 5 on Tuesday night in Denver.

Ty Lawson scored 26 points and Andre Iguodala had 19 for the third-seeded Nuggets.

Celtics 97, Knicks 90, OT

In Boston, Jason Terry scored Boston's last nine points as the Celtics weathered a strong comeback by the Knicks and avoided being swept with a overtime win.

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 29 points as they forced a fifth game in the series, but it was Terry who provided the finishing touches.

In Game 3, he had been elbowed by J.R. Smith, and the NBA suspended the Knicks guard for Sunday's game.

New York had tied the game 84-84 after trailing by 20 points early in the third quarter. It was 88-all before the Celtics regained control and took the lead for good on a 3-pointer by Terry. Carmelo Anthony, who led the Knicks with 32 points, hit a short jumper, but Terry connected on a 15-footer with 50 seconds remaining for a 93-90 lead.

After Anthony missed a 3-pointer with 21 seconds to go, Terry was fouled and sank both free throws. He added a layup to close out the game.

Lackey solid in return as Red Sox beat Astros

BOSTON (AP)— John Lackey returned from the disabled list to pitch six solid innings and David Ortiz drove in two more runs as the Boston Red Sox matched a team record with their 18th win in April by beating the Houston Astros 6-1 Sunday for a four-game sweep.

Lackey (1-1) missed all of last season recovering from Tommy John surgery and went on the DL after leaving his first start this year with a strained right biceps. He allowed five hits, struck out four and walked two. The walks came with two outs in the first and cost Lackey his only run.

Stephen Drew hit a two-run triple and Ortiz had two hits, extending his hitting streak to 20 games dating to last season. Ortiz has 11 RBIs and is batting .516 in eight games since returning to the lineup last weekend.

Bud Norris (3-3) struck out six for Houston and held the Red Sox to three earned runs.

AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher John Lackey, top, throws to a Houston Astros batter during the first inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Sunday, April 28, 2013.

Rays 8, White Sox 3

In Chicago, David Price struck out nine in winning for first time this season and Ben Zobrist hit a go-ahead RBI single in a three-run eighth spurred by Alex Rios' error as Tampa Bay beat Chicago in a game marked by a spat between Price and home plate umpire Tom Hallion.

Price (1-2) allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner walked two and threw 119 pitches.

Price and Hallion exchanged words as Price walked toward the dugout after throwing his last pitch. After the game, Price said Hallion used an expletive. Hallion called Price a liar.

The Rays lost all five of Price's five previous starts this year and were the second team to lose in the first five starts by a reigning Cy Young winner. The Minnesota Twins lost in Frank Viola's first seven games in 1989.

Jose Lobaton and Matt Joyce each homered for Tampa Bay, which improved to 4-9 on the road.

Yankees 3, Blue Jays 2

In New York, Lyle Overbay sent a knuckleball from R.A. Dickey into the right field bullpen for a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning as New York completed a four-game sweep of Toronto.

Brennan Boesch homered in the second off Dickey (2-4), pitching in New York for the first time since getting his 20th win for the New York Mets last September.

Dickey allowed a single to Overbay later in the second, then retired 13 of his next 14 batters around a walk. Travis Hafner singled leading off the seventh and, with two outs, Overbay hit his third home run of the season—one more than his total last year.

Twins 5, Rangers 0

In Minneapolis, Kevin Correia pitched eight sharp innings and Justin Morneau homered as Minnesota sent Texas to a second straight loss for the first time this season.

Correia (3-1) gave up six hits, struck out two and walked one. He allowed only one runner to reach third base while lowering his ERA to 2.23.

The soft-tossing veteran signed a two-year, $10 million contract with Minnesota in the offseason and has been the Twins' best starter. Using a fastball that rarely broke 90 mph and a variety of offspeed pitches, Correia retired his first seven batters and set down 11 of the last 12.

Alexi Ogando (2-2) allowed three runs on four hits over six innings.

Athletics 9, Orioles 8, 10 innings

In Oakland, California, third baseman Manny Machado made a throwing error on a bunt in the 10th inning as Oakland completed its comeback to snap a four-game skid and keep Baltimore from a four-game sweep.

Down 5-0 in the sixth, the A's tied it at 8 on Yoenis Cespedes' two-run homer with one out in the ninth.

Eric Sogard hit a leadoff single in the 10th and moved to second when reliever Pedro Strop (0-1) made a wide throw to second on Adam Rosales' bunt. Coco Crisp followed with a sacrifice bunt and Machado threw wildly past to shortstop J.J. Hardy covering third, allowing Sogard to score with a headfirst dive.

Chris Davis hit his team-leading ninth home run, a solo shot in the eighth that put Baltimore ahead 7-6. Machado added an RBI double in the ninth.

Jerry Blevins (1-0) pitched one inning for the win.

Mariners 2, Angels 1

In Seattle, Jason Bay and Michael Morse hit solo home runs as Seattle took three of four from Los Angeles to earn its first series victory of the year.

Bay tied it in the seventh with his second homer, connecting on the first pitch of the inning from Jason Vargas (0-3).

Morse put Seattle ahead in the eighth against Vargas, hitting his seventh home run into the Angels' bullpen.

Mariners starter Hisashi Iwakuma struck out eight over six innings, allowing only an unearned run.

Carter Capps (2-1) got the victory and Tom Wilhelmsen closed for his ninth save.

Royals 9, Indians 0, first game
Indians 10, Royals 3, second game

In Kansas City, Missouri, Mike Aviles hit a three-run homer and finished with a career-high five RBIs to help Cleveland split the first day-night doubleheader in Kauffman Stadium history.

The Royals' Jeremy Guthrie shut down Cleveland in a 9-0 victory in the opener, but Will Smith (0-1) couldn't do the same after getting recalled from Triple-A Omaha for the night-cap.

The Indians scored twice off Smith in the second inning. Aviles hit his homer in the third, and then he added sacrifice flies in the fourth and seventh innings against his former team.

Corey Kluber yielded only Chris Getz's two-run blooper in the fourth in a stellar spot start for Cleveland. Kluber (2-0) lasted seven innings and retired his final 10 batters.

In the opener of a doubleheader caused by Friday night's rainout, Guthrie (3-0) allowed six hits over 6 2-3 innings for his 16th consecutive start without a loss. That matched the Kansas City record set by Paul Splittorff from Aug. 13, 1977-April 22, 1978.

Tigers 8, Braves 3

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera's three-run homer in the seventh inning broke the game open as Detroit finished off a sweep of its three-game interleague series with Atlanta.

Austin Jackson and Omar Infante also homered for the Tigers, and Doug Fister (4-0) struck out eight in seven innings on a rainy night at Comerica Park.

Mike Minor (3-2) allowed a three-run homer to Jackson in the third, and although the Braves came back to tie it, Cabrera doubled and scored in the sixth to make it 4-3.

Pirates 9, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, rookie Jeff Locke pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and Russell Martin had two of Pittsburgh's four home runs in a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on that gave the Pirates a series win and the National League Central lead.

Jones had three hits and John McDonald added an RBI double for Pittsburgh, which ended rookie Shelby Miller's streak of 14 scoreless innings at home to start the season. The Pirates have won nine of 12 overall, leapfrogging St. Louis for first place.

Locke (3-1) has worked 13 scoreless innings while allowing five hits his last two starts. The Cardinals got just three singles and advanced two runners into scoring position against the 25-year-old left-hander, who earned the fifth spot in the rotation with a strong spring.

Justin Wilson allowed a walk the last two innings to wrap up the Pirates' fifth shutout, tied for the league lead with St. Louis and San Francisco.

Miller (3-2) struggled to put away hitters and was taken out after 113 pitches and giving up two homers in 5 2-3 innings.

Dodgers 2, Brewers 0

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw retired 18 consecutive batters and struck out 12 in eight dominant innings for Los Angeles, and Carl Crawford homered twice against Kyle Lohse.

Kershaw (3-2) scattered four hits and didn't walk a batter while lowering his ERA to 1.73. His string of consecutive outs began after Rickie Weeks' bloop double leading off the second.

Brandon League pitched a perfect ninth inning for his eighth save in nine chances.

Crawford drove Lohse's first pitch of the game over the center-field fence. His second homer came on an 0-2 offering in the fifth and landed in the right-field pavilion.

Lohse (1-2) gave up five hits in seven innings.

Padres 6, Giants 4

In San Diego, Chase Headley, Nick Hundley and Alexi Amarista homered off Ryan Vogelsong, as San Diego completed its first three-game sweep of the Giants since May 2010.

Headley had three hits and Amarista scored three runs for the Padres, who've won four straight.

Pablo Sandoval had an RBI single among his career high-tying four hits, but the defending World Series champion Giants lost their season-high fifth straight game. They've lost eight of 12 following a 9-4 start.

Buster Posey extended his hitting streak to nine games with a two-run homer to pull the Giants to 6-4 in the eighth.

San Diego's Jason Marquis (2-2) allowed two runs and six hits in 6 2-3 innings. Huston Street pitched the ninth for his fifth save in five chances.

Vogelsong (1-2) went five-plus, allowing six runs, five earned, and eight hits.

Marlins 6, Cubs 4

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton homered twice and drove in four runs, helping the Marlins avert a four-game series sweep.

Ricky Nolasco (2-2) gave up three runs in seven innings and retired the final 15 batters he faced. The Marlins improved to 6-19, still worst in the majors, and 3-10 at home.

They benefited from a rare offensive outburst, scoring more than three runs for only the fifth time this season and twice coming from behind.

Stanton waited 65 at-bats to hit his first homer Saturday, then hit another in the first inning off Carlos Villanueva (1-1) to put Miami ahead 2-1. He homered again leading off in the eighth against Kameron Loe.

Chicago's Dioner Navarro went deep in the ninth against Steve Cishek, who nonetheless earned his third save in four chances.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 2

In Phoenix, Gerardo Parra tripled and scored twice, and Josh Wilson had a run-scoring double to help Arizona get the win.

Rockies All-Star shortstop Troy Tulowitzki was lifted in the bottom of the third inning because of a strained left shoulder.

Patrick Corbin (3-0) allowed two runs and nine hits over 6 2-3 innings for his first win in four starts against the Rockies. J.J. Putz pitched the ninth for his fifth save for the Diamondbacks, who took three of four from the Rockies.

Colorado starter Jon Garland (2-2) gave up four runs, three earned, and eight hits in six innings.

Phillies 5, Mets 1

In New York, Ryan Howard snapped a seventh-inning tie with a pinch-hit double, Cole Hamels earned his first win of the season as the Phillies took advantage of a crucial Mets error to finish a three-game sweep.

Freddy Galvis homered, Chase Utley had an RBI single and Hamels (1-3) overcame six walks, which matched his career high. The left-hander held the Mets to two hits and struck out eight over six innings in his fourth consecutive solid outing.

All-Star catcher Carlos Ruiz went 1 for 4 with a double in his return to the Phillies from a 25-game amphetamine suspension. Even on the road, the popular Ruiz was greeted warmly with a chorus of "Chooooooch," and one fan held a sign welcoming him back.

Jonathon Niese (2-2) allowed one earned run in 6 2-3 innings for New York, showing no ill effects from the comebacker that hit him near the right ankle and knocked him out of his previous start Tuesday.

Reds 5, Nationals 2

In Washington, Tony Cingrani struck out a career-high 11—including four in one inning—while pitching two-hit ball through the sixth, and the Reds avoided a four-game series sweep.

Brandon Phillips had a two-run single as the Reds (14-12) improved to a major league-worst 2-9 on the road.

Cingrani (2-0) pitched three perfect innings before Denard Span reached leading off the fourth on a strikeout and wild pitch. Danny Espinosa followed with a double, but Cingrani struck out three more hitters to escape the inning without allowing any runs.

He joined Joe Nuxhall, Mario Soto, Tim Birtsas and Frankie Rodriguez as the only Reds with a four-strikeout inning.

Washington's Ross Detwiler (1-2) allowed three earned runs in five innings, and his 11 hits allowed matched a career high.

Aroldis Chapman earned his fifth save in five opportunities.

Chinatown survives Lyn's Heat in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Chinatown eked out a 79-78 overtime win over Lyn's Heat during the curtain-raiser in the 2013 DLX Invitational last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

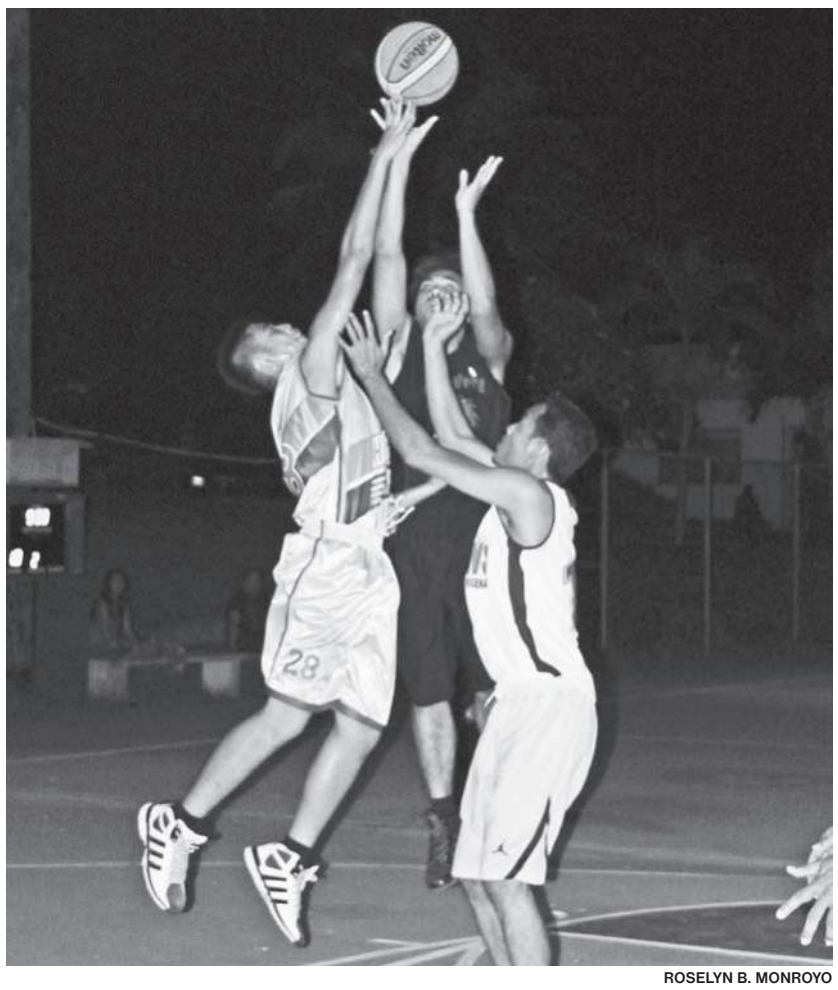
Vince Pua made a putback, while Lyn's Heat Mike Llagas missed an open layup in closing seconds of the extension, giving Chinatown its first win in second game. Lyn's Heat absorbed its second loss in as many matches.

Pua drilled the winning basket in the paint after Bryan Ajoste faltered on his drive to put Chinatown on top by a hair, with 15.3 seconds left in overtime.

Lyn's Heat called a timeout and when the game resumed Llagas went for an isolation play from the right wing and successfully eluded his defender. However, he took off early and was not properly positioned for the shot, as his layup kissed the side of the rim. The ball then bounced toward the right baseline with Manolo Manalo trying to save it, throwing the leather back to the court.

The ball was indeed saved, but landed on the wrong hands with a Chinatown player picking it up and dribbling the time away to hand Lyn's Heat a sorry loss.

Lyn's Heat was also ahead in the closing seconds of the regulation, before a layup from Michael Mancao sent the game into extra time. Lyn's fell to a 0-2 record despite leading by as much as 11 points in the first quarter.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Freestyle's D.J. Ong, left, challenges the shot of Mawati's Jerome Reyes, while teammate Ferdie Tobias provides help defense during the first quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Ajoste anchored Chinatown's come-from-behind win with his 32 points. Lester Lapuz added 18, while Paul Quizon and Mancoa also finished in double digits with 11 and 10, respectively.

Dan Mateo top-scored for Lyn's Heat with his 24 markers.

Freestyle 70, Mawati 63

Freestyle also bounced back from its debut loss after beating Mawati in the second game of the night.

Freestyle played better in the second half to break into the win column and foil Mawati's bid for back-to-back victories.

Down by 5 at the break, 30-25, Freestyle outgunned Mawati in the third period, 26-16, to grab the lead, 51-46, and hung on to the driver's seat in the fourth canto.

Jun Pantaleon led the pivotal third-quarter charge, firing 10 points, while Ferdie Tobias added 9, and three other Freestyle players contributed at least 3 points each to turn the table on Mawati.

Freestyle continued to get points from every player it fielded in the game in the fourth quarter to protect the lead and take the 7-point win.

Pantaleon paced Freestyle with his 23 points, Tobias tallied 16, and Cecilio Bisana and D.J. Ong nailed 10 apiece.

First Game

Chinatown 79 –Ajoste 32, Lapuz 18, Quizon 12, Mancao 10, Pua 7.

Lyn's Heat 78 – Mateo 24, Capalad 20, Manalo 10, Garcia 8, Camacho 7, Vergara 5, Llagas 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-13, 42-25, 56-59, 68-68, 79-78.

Second Game

Freestyle 70 – Pantaleon 23, Tobias 16, Bisana 12, Ong 10, Cadiang 9.

Mawati 63 – Guntar 13, Larot 12, Serrano 9, Reyes 8, Corotan 7, Cabrera 4, Tenepere 2, Enriquez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 25-30, 51-46, 70-63.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	7	.720	_
New York	15	9	.625	2 1/2
Baltimore	15	10	.600	3
Tampa Bay	12	13	.480	6
Toronto	9	17	.346	9 1/2

Central Division

Kansas City	13	9	.591	_
Detroit	13	10	.565	1/2
Minnesota	11	10	.524	1 1/2
Chicago	10	14	.417	4
Cleveland	9	13	.409	4

West Division

Texas	16	9	.640	_
Oakland	14	12	.538	2 1/2
Seattle	11	16	.407	6
Los Angeles	9	15	.375	6 1/2
Houston	7	18	.280	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	15	9	.625	_
Washington	13	12	.520	2 1/2
Philadelphia	12	14	.462	4
New York	10	13	.435	4 1/2
Miami	6	19	.240	9 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	15	10	.600	_
St. Louis	14	10	.583	1/2
Cincinnati	14	12	.538	1 1/2
Milwaukee	12	11	.522	2
Chicago	9	15	.375	5 1/2

West Division

Arizona	15	10	.600	_
Colorado	15	10	.600	_
San Francisco	13	12	.520	2
Los Angeles	12	12	.500	2 1/2
San Diego	9	15	.375	5 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIPLES

From Page 28

76, and made another one to spark Docomo's breakaway. Marlon Sison also had back-to-back triples to cap the team's 14-2 run and turn a standoff to a comfortable 90-78 lead, going into the last two minutes of the match.

Mariana Resort went on to drop its debut game, as it scored only 4 more points in the remaining minutes and three field goals in the last 5:53 mark of the fourth period after a Edwin Camacho's layup evened up the match at 76-all.

Mangali led Docomo's first win with his 20 points, while Sison added 17, making 15 of them from downtown. Mangali and Sison's good shooting from beyond the arc was complemented by the consistent inside game of big men Bruce Berline and Tim Wesley, who chipped in 16 and 11 points, respectively.

The two Docomo frontliners outplayed Mariana Resort's Darwin Barbo and Glenn Aquino in the battle in the paint. Barbo scored 22 points but earned most of his living from the foul line, as either Berline or Wesley were there to stop him from dominating the shaded lane. Aquino added a quiet 18 markers, nailing mostly perimeter shots.

Kalayaan 96, Shirley's 87

In the curtain-raiser, Kalayaan, Inc. rallied past Shirley's to win its debut.

Shirley's led the majority of the first three periods before collapsing in the fourth canto, as they failed to stop Kalayaan's 1-2 punch of Lerio Pagarao and Sonny Lerio.

Pagarao and Lerio teamed up for 19 of their 32 points in the final canto, turning a standoff (64-all) to a 9-point win. Roger Herrera and Ezra Caro also contributed in the fourth-quarter rally, combining for 11 markers.

Pagarao went on to lead all scorers with his 41 points, while Lerio chipped in 23, and Herrera finished in twin digits with his 10 markers.

Dennis Vinas top-scored for Shirley's with his 21 points, but was held to two field goals in the fourth period. Fradel Sedillo logged 19, but was scoreless in the final canto and the rest of his teammates made no more than two field goals each to fall short in the end.

First Game

Kalayaan, Inc. 96 – Pagarao 41, Lerio 23, Herrera 10, Caro 7, Tibayan 4, R. Hernandez 3, J. Hernandez 2, Camacho 2.

Shirley's 87 – Vinas 21, Sedillo 19, Usi 12, Barrios 10, Peredo 10, Jugos 9, Montes 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-23, 40-38, 64-64, 96-87.

Second Game

Docomo Pacific 94 – Mangali 20, Sison 17, Berline 16, Wesley 11, Sanciangco 10, Paraiso 8, Tudela 6, McCale 2, Sablan 2.

Mariana Resort 82 – Barbo 22, Aquino 18, Abuy 11, Galarse 11, Camacho 9, Gatdula 4, Capuli 3, Sanchez 2, Meimban 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-16, 45-39, 66-64, 94-82.

ROCKIES

From Page 28

IT&E (1-11), Juan Santiago Jets (0-12) are out of the running.

The Rockies made it to the scoreboard in the first three innings to gain a cushion in the Saturday opener. They scored four runs at the top of the first off Anthony Tenorio's RBI single, Donavin Ada's RBI double, and a Survivors error. The other run came from Ada, who stole home. The Rockies added three more runs with Ada getting one off another Survivors miscue and Dai Podziewski's RBI single and stolen dish.

The Survivors had no answer in the first two innings, as Rockies pitcher Kenny Diaz struck out five and no runners made it past first base. The Survivors finally lit up the scoreboard at the bottom of the third off Glenn Taro's two-run double, however the Rockies also got two runs earlier at the top to keep the seven-point lead, 9-2.

All of the Rockies' runs were scored with Taro pitching, so the Survivors called in Leonardo Salalila, who shut down their foes, allowed only five hits, and struck out six. However, Salalila and company could not muster enough runs in the last three innings to steal the win, as the Survivors only scored in the fifth with their three runs.

The Rockies also used a second pitcher to end the game and Ada after striking out the Survivors' first two batters and walking Salalila, the relief pitcher secured the win with the third strike on Neldrey Skerei.

Survivors 9, Comets II 7

The Survivors avoided back-to-back losses over the weekend after rallying past the Comets II last Sunday.

The Survivors were down, 5-7, with only one inning to go, but grabbed the win with a four-run top of the sixth inning. Skerei and Theo Laniyo made RBI singles, while the Survivors' two other runs came off the Comets II's errors to steal the lead, 9-5, going into the bottom of the last inning.

Skerei, who came in for Laniyo in the third inning, went on to complete the come-from-behind win for the Survivors. The relief pitcher struck out leadoff batter Ried Teregeyo, but walked Limes Zephaniah Limes, who then reached third base off Niffton Rasiang's double to keep the Comets II in the game. However, Rasiang and Limes were left stranded, as Skerei struck out the next two batters.

Laolao 12, Twins 7

Laolao Bay Golf Resort leaned on a eight-run bottom of the third to foil the As Matuis Twins' upset bid in Sunday's opener.

Before its third inning rally, Laolao was behind, 1-6, as the Twins got off to a good start, making five runs at the top of the first. Laolao nailed three more runs in the fifth inning for the insurance, while the Twins went cold in the remaining five innings, scoring only in the second and fourth (with one run apiece).

Laolao managed to grab the win as the Twins were erratic on defense, giving up 10 runs off errors.

Relief pitcher Pete Maratita, who came in for Dwayne Reyes, did a great job on the mound, striking out nine and allowing only three hits and two runs in 3.1 innings pitched before Justin Celis took over in the latter part of the fifth inning.

Braves 13, Jets 1

In the final game last weekend, division leader Braves routed the Jets to maintain their distance against the Falcons.

Jeremy Ngiraked pitched 4.0 innings for the Braves and allowed only two hits and one unearned run for their 11th win. He also struck one eight and walked two in a nearly perfect game, as he committed only one error.

On offense, Tony Dizon paced the Braves, as he went 2-for-4 at bat and scored two runs, two RBIs, and one double.

LEINA

From Page 28

the second to get the Freshmen of the Year award (Michaela Breit was the first one to notch the award in 2011, according to the Thunderwolves' website).

"We are so proud of our daughter. This is what his father has been dreaming for her since he taught Leina how to play golf at an early age," said Shirley Kim.

"My husband invested a lot of time and hard work to help improve Leina's game and now the fruits of his labor have started to come with Leina winning two awards in her rookie season," Shirley added.

Besides the two awards, the Marianas Baptist Academy graduate was also named to the RMAC All-Conference First Team and was the lone freshman on the elite group, joining junior Arianna Estrada and seniors Haley Raymond and Fallyn Beyale of Western New Mexico and sophomore Nicole Hulbert of Regis University.

Kim's three teammates—Julie Sanchez, Breit, and Domi Dinallo—made it to the Second Team, along with Maria Manrique of Colorado Christian and Michelle Stripp of Colorado Mesa.

Matansa FC Wins Girls U15 Crown

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matansa FC coach Lee Epperson huddles with his players before the start of the second half of their title-clinching game against Tan Holdings FC in the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Matansa FC's Pinyarat Shakweiller goes for a kick in front of the Tan Holdings defender.

Matansa and Tan Holdings players are tangled up as they battle for possession.

Matansa FC goalie Carla Ballesteros jumps for a save after Tan Holdings FC's Chloe Salvosa lets go off a penalty kick.

A Matansa striker is up against two Tan Holdings defenders.

The Tan Holdings goalie steps in to pick up the ball.

A Tan Holdings FC striker goes for a header.

Matansa FC goalie Carla Ballesteros anticipates the ball.

Tan Holdings and Matansa players position themselves in the box waiting for the corner kick.

A Tan Holdings FC defender collides with their goalie, while a Matansa FC player joins the action.

Spurs finish 4-game sweep, routing Lakers

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lackey solid in return as Red Sox beat Astros

PAGE 25

Leina bags Golfer of the Year award

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Leina Kim capped her outstanding debut in collegiate golf competition by bagging two awards, including the prestigious Golfer of the Year plum.

The Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, a collegiate athletic conference that participates in NCAA Division II, named Kim of the Colorado State University-Pueblo the 2012-2013 RMAC Golfer of the Year in postseason awards list released last week. The Thunderwolves rookie also earned the Freshman of the Year citation.

The 20-year-old golfer was recognized for her consistent and impressive showing in RMAC. According to the CSU-Pueblo website, Kim made it to the Top 5 of the last four competitions in the conference. Overall, she had six Top 5 finishes, including a first place finish in the Southwest Motors Lady ThunderWolf Invitational where she defeated 43 other players, and she did not finish lower than 12th in any tournament she competed in this year.

The CSU-Pueblo freshmen also ended the season with a third place finish in the RMAC Championships last week after carding an 8-over par 152 in the two-round tournament in Phoenix, Arizona. She was just one stroke behind the second placer and seven shots off the top finisher and led the Thunderwolves to a runner-up finish. Western New Mexico ruled the eight-team championships.

The daughter of Kwang Young and Shirley Kim is the only CSU-Pueblo student to be named Golfer of the Year and

See LEINA on Page 26

JESSIE PAGSINOHIN
Leina Kim, seen here posing for *TAGA Sports*, was named RMAC Golfer of the Year and Freshman of the Year.

Rockies boost playoffs bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Pinnacle Rockies increased their playoff chances in the Major Division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball after defeating the Survivors, 9-5, last weekend at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

The win gave the Rockies a 7-4 record and a tie for sixth to eighth place in the team standings with Go See Mark Ol'Aces and McDonald's. Only the Top 8 teams in the 16-squad field will advance to the playoffs. The NSA Braves (11-2), Talaabwogh Falcons (10-2), Comets I (9-3), Laolao Bay Golf Resort (8-3), and the JPO Enforcers (8-4) are assured of the first five playoff seats, while the Kagman Little Legals (7-5), Red Sox (6-5), Survivors (5-8), and Comets II (5-8) are still in the thick of the fight, and the LG Twins (3-8),

See ROCKIES on Page 26

A Pinnacle Rockies batter waits for the pitch from the Survivors during their Major division game in the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Triples lift Docomo Pacific to win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific drained six triples in the fourth quarter en route to a 94-82 win over Mariana Resort in the second game in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Elgene Mangali drilled his first trey of the night at the 5:20 mark of the fourth canto to break the last deadlock, 79-

See TRIPLES on Page 26

Docomo Pacific's Bruce Berline fakes off the defense of Mariana Resort's Jayson Gatdula, left, and Darwin Barbo during the fourth quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO